



Time to act

Putin acknowledges threats posed by climate change saying global warming could trigger fires, devastating floods and other negative consequences



The US cares deeply about protecting minorities and religious rights everywhere

— Mike Pompeo
US secretary of state

IN BRIEF

1 killed in Oregon centre stabbing

Beaverton: A 20-year-old attacker carried out a series of stabbings and carjackings at a suburban Portland shopping center and in a nearby town Wednesday, killing one person and wounding three others before being arrested, authorities said. Police in the city of Beaverton said two people were stabbed inside a Wells Fargo bank and a man was stabbed at a gym next door. After the stabbings, the assailant stole the man's car and drove into the suburb of Tigard, where he stole another woman's car and stabbed her, Officer Matt Henderson said at a news conference. He eventually got out of the car and ran from officers before being caught, police said.

Iran: Fight against economic terror

Kuala Lumpur: The president of sanctions-hit Iran called on Thursday for Muslim countries to cooperate in fighting US "economic terrorism" at the opening of a summit aimed at tackling the Islamic world's woes. Hundreds of delegates are attending the gathering in Malaysia — including heads of state and religious leaders — but the meeting has been snubbed by Saudi Arabia, home to Islam's holiest shrines. The summit has also been criticised for undermining the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), the Saudi-based global body representing Muslim nations and organisations. Issues including the plight of Myanmar's Rohingya and China's mostly Muslim Uighur minority could be discussed, although, with massive Chinese infrastructure in many Islamic nations, criticism may be muted. In opening remarks, Iran's President Hassan Rouhani slammed Washington's global clout. "American economic regime, and dollarisation of national and global economies, have provided the United States with the possibility of advancing its hegemony under the threat of sanctions and economic terrorism," he said. The Muslim world needs to be saved "from the domination of the United States dollar, and the American financial regime," he added, calling for greater financial cooperation between Islamic countries.

MALE SMOKERS HAVE DROPPED, STATES W.H.O

Geneva, Dec. 19: The number of male tobacco users is falling for the first time, the World Health Organisation said on Thursday, hailing a 'major shift' in efforts to kick the world's deadly tobacco addiction. The number of women and girls who use tobacco products has been steadily declining for years. But tobacco use among males — who account for the overwhelming majority of smokers — has until now been expanding. In a new report, the UN health agency hailed the beginning decline as a powerful indication that anti-smoking campaigns around the globe had begun to pay off. But it warned that far more was needed to kick the addiction, which is estimated to kill some eight million people each year. "Declines in tobacco use amongst males mark a turning point in the fight against tobacco," WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said in a statement, saying the shift was "driven by government's being tougher on the tobacco industry." For the past two decades, global tobacco use has been slowly dwindling, from 1.397 billion users in 2000 to 1.337 billion in 2018.

Trump's name etched in US history with impeachment

President feels public backlash to boost his 2020 campaign momentum

Washington, Dec. 19: The first line of US President Donald Trump's obituary has been written. While Trump is all but certain to avoid removal from office, a portion of his legacy took shape when he became just the third president in American history to be impeached by the US House.

The two articles of impeachment approved along largely partisan lines on Thursday stand as a constitutional rebuke that will stay with Trump even as he tries to trivialise their meaning and use them to power his re-election bid. "It will be impossible to look back at this presidency and not discuss impeachment. It is permanently tied to his record," said Julian Zelizer, a presidential historian at Princeton University.

"Trump now always becomes part of the conversation about misusing presidential power. Ukraine will be his Watergate. Ukraine will be his Lewinsky." History books will add Trump to the section that features Bill Clinton, impeached 21 years ago for lying under oath about having sex with White House intern Monica Lewinsky, and Andrew Johnson, impeached 151 years ago for defying Congress on Recon-



House committee on the judiciary chairman Jerry Nadler delivers remarks on Trump's impeachment alongside chairman Adam Schiff, chairwoman Carolyn Maloney and Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, on Thursday.

struction. Richard Nixon, who avoided impeachment by resigning during the Watergate investigation, is there, too. Trump himself is keenly aware of the impact that impeachment may have on his legacy. Allies in recent months have described him as seething over the prospect, taking impeachment more as a personal attack and an attempt to delegitimise his presidency than a judgment on his conduct. Trump said on Tuesday that he took 'zero' responsibility for his expected impeachment. "Few peo-

IN A FIERY LETTER to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, The US President portrayed himself as the victim of an unfair and politically motivated attack.

ple in high position could have endured or passed this test," Trump wrote in a fiery six-page letter to House Speaker Nancy Pelosi on the eve of his impeachment. "You do not know, nor do you care, the great damage and hurt you have inflicted upon

wonderful and loving members of my family."

The letter, rife with exclamation points, random capitalisations and scores of grievances, portrayed the President as the victim of an unfair and politically motivated attack. "One hundred years from now, when people look back at this affair, I want them to understand it, and learn from it, so that it can never happen to another President again," he wrote.

With Republicans in control of the Senate, Trump's acquittal in a

January trial there seems assured. He has asserted that a public backlash to impeachment may help him politically by firing up loyal supporters and attracting more independents to his cause. He's mused about taking a post-verdict victory lap, a veritable "Not Guilty Tour" akin to the "Thank You Tour" he conducted during the 2016 presidential transition.

Presidential historian Jon Meacham said impeachment will make Trump "the first insurgent incumbent president in American history." He compared the reflexive partisanship of this moment to the 19th-century tribalism that surrounded Johnson and Reconstruction, requiring a divided nation "to assess what's being said instead of simply saluting the person saying it."

Uniquely able to command attention, Trump has held sway over his adopted Republican party, reshaping it in his image even while defying its orthodoxy. He has thrilled his base of supporters with his confrontational style and tough rhetoric, using his combative Twitter account to fight rivals and dispute from the outset accusations of foreign electoral interference during special counsel Robert Mueller's Russia probe.

Trump finds fault with Pelosi's move

Washington, Dec. 19: US President Donald Trump is lashing out at House Speaker Nancy Pelosi after she threw uncertainty into the impeachment process by refusing to say, repeatedly, when or whether she would send two impeachment articles to the Republican-controlled Senate for a trial. "Now the Do Nothing Party want to Do Nothing with the Articles & not deliver them to the Senate," Trump tweeted on Thursday.

He wrote that if Democrats didn't transmit the articles of impeachment, "they would lose by Default!" The House impeached Trump on charges of abuse of power and obstructing Congress stemming from his pressure on Ukraine to announce investigations of his political rival as he withheld US aid.

Pelosi had declined to say late on Wednesday when she would send the articles to the Senate. Until they are submitted, the GOP-controlled Senate cannot hold the trial, which is nearly certain to acquit the Republican President.

Pelosi said House Democrats could not name impeachment managers — House prosecutors who make the case for Trump's conviction and removal from office — until they know more about how the Senate will conduct a trial. "We cannot name managers until we see what



Nancy Pelosi

Q We cannot name impeachment managers until we see what the process is on the Senate side. And I would hope that that will be soon. So far, we haven't seen anything that looks fair to us. So hopefully it will be fair.

— NANCY PELOSI
US House Speaker

the process is on the Senate side," Pelosi said. "And I would hope that that will be soon. So far, we haven't seen anything that looks fair to us. So hopefully it will be fair. And when we see what that is, we'll send our managers."

Senate majority leader, Mitch McConnell, rejected a proposal earlier this week from senate minority leader, Chuck Schumer, to call several witnesses. McConnell also said that he is coordinating with the White House and declared that "I am not an impartial juror."

Pelosi said that McConnell "says it's OK for the foreman of the jury to be in cahoots with the lawyers of the accused. That doesn't sound right to us." — AP



Tulsi Gabbard

GABBARD VOTES 'PRESENT' ON IMPEACHMENT

Washington, Dec. 19: Already comfortable as an outlier in her party, Democratic presidential candidate Tulsi Gabbard did not support the impeachment of President Donald Trump, voting 'present' on two articles that cleared the House.

In a lengthy statement released after the House charged the president with abuse of power and obstructing Congress, Gabbard said that Trump "violated public trust" but that voters would be able to hold him accountable in the 2020 election.

The Hawaii congresswoman, a periodic Trump defender and long an impeachment skeptic, framed herself as a rational centrist between two partisan mobs. Republicans, she wrote, were "blindly" defending the president and "abdicated... legitimate oversight," while Democrats were driven by an extreme characterization of the president as a would-be dictator.

"I could not in good conscience vote against impeachment because I believe he is guilty of wrongdoing," she explained. "I also could not in good conscience vote for impeachment because removal of a sitting President must not be the culmination of a partisan process, fueled by tribal animosities that have so gravely divided our country."

Gabbard noted that she voted for the impeachment inquiry three months ago and has since introduced a resolution calling for Trump's censure after disclosure that he asked Ukraine's president to help investigate already debunked allegations of corruption against former vice-president Joe Biden, who is also seeking the 2020 Democratic presidential nomination. The two House articles set up a Senate trial that is all but certain to end in Trump's acquittal. — AP

I'm having a good time, says a defiant Trump

Battle Creek, Dec. 19: Donald Trump likes a fight and he likes a show and Thursday — with impeachment voted right at the moment he was addressing a campaign rally hundreds of miles away in Michigan — he got both things on steroids.

By a twist of fate, a long planned Trump rally in the small city of Battle Creek, Michigan, not only coincided with the day of his impeachment back in

Washington. The historic vote in the House of Representatives actually took place as the US President spoke to around 7,000 of his most die-hard supporters — blue collar voters dressed in work boots and camouflage hunting gear.

"We want Trump, we want Trump," they chanted before he even came out. For a President itching to vent his anger against rival Democrats,



Donald Trump

against the media and every other of the many forces he claims are con-

spirating against him, what could have been better?

Trump did not resemble a politician on the ropes.

He resembled typical high-energy, angry, joking, conspiracy-minded Trump — only angrier.

"The Democrats are declaring their deep hatred and disdain for the American voter," Trump said to boos and cheers.

"They've been trying to impeach me from day one. They've been trying to

impeach me from before I ran," he said. But far from the political pain in Washington, Trump was in his happy place. The crowd laughed at his jokes. They booed when he told them to boo. They cheered at his every boast.

"I'd rather be here. These rallies are great," he told the crowd. "You are inspiring."

"Four more years, four more years," they chanted. On Wednesday, he showed how that message is being honed post-impeachment. He touted the strong economy and flag-waving themes about military spending. Trump told anecdotes and rambled through his grievances. Over and over he insisted that impeachment didn't matter. "I'm not worried," he said to the crowd. "I don't know about you but I'm having a good time." — AP

JESUS WAS TREATED BETTER!

A US Republican lawmaker said that President Donald Trump, undergoing impeachment proceedings led by Democrats, has been treated worse than Jesus before his crucifixion, causing a stir on social media

- I want you to keep this in mind: When Jesus was falsely accused of treason, Pontius Pilate gave Jesus the opportunity to face his accusers, Congressman Barry Loudermilk, who hails from the deeply conservative Bible Belt state of Georgia, told fellow lawmakers.
- During that sham trial, Pontius Pilate afforded more rights to Jesus than the Democrats afforded this president and this process, Loudermilk said, referring to the Roman governor of Judea who approved the death sentence.
- Jerry Nadler, chairman of the Judiciary Committee, shot back that the president had been given the opportunity to come and testify before the Judiciary Committee. He declined to do so.
- "Trump to Jesus" was soon trending on Twitter, but Loudermilk was hardly the only lawmaker to reference Jesus' crucifixion during the day's proceedings.
- From the House floor, Republican congressman Fred Keller of Pennsylvania quoted Jesus' words from the cross - "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do" - in referencing those voting against the president.
- "Comparing the treatment received by the President to what Jesus suffered is absurd. Also, only one of them is sinless," he said.
- Charlotte Clymer, press secretary for US LGBT civil rights organisation Human Rights Campaign, said that the president might be confused because of Trump's tendency to turn anything into wine.
- According to the Bible, Jesus' first miracle was turning water into wine at a wedding.



The president had been given the opportunity to come and testify before the Judiciary Committee, He declined to do so.

— JERRY NADLER, chairman of the Judiciary Committee,

IMPEACHMENT FAR-FETCHED, SAYS PUTIN

Moscow, Dec. 19: Russian President Vladimir Putin says US President Donald Trump's impeachment is far-fetched.

Putin said on Thursday at his annual news conference in Moscow that the move is a continuation of the Democrats' fight against Trump. He predicted the impeachment motion will be rejected by the Senate.

Putin said that "the party that lost the election is continuing the fight by other means." He likened the impeachment to the earlier US probe into Trump's collusion with Russia, which he downplayed as being groundless.

Putin, who has been in power for two decades, also hailed the economic achievements of his rule. He emphasised that Russia has become the world's largest grain exporter, surpassing the US and Canada — a dramatic change compared to the Soviet Union that heavily depended on grain imports.

He also said industry modernisation, saying that three quarters of industrial equipment is no older than 12 years.

He said that the country has built three new airports, 12 new railway stations and the number of major highways has doubled.

The Russian economy had suffered a double blow of a drop in global oil prices and Western sanctions that followed Moscow's 2014 annexation of Crimea. It has seen a slow recovery since 2017 after a two-year stagnation. Russia's ties with the West have remained at post-Cold War lows. — AP



Majority Leader Mitch McConnell speaks at the US Capitol in Washington, DC on Thursday.

McConnell vows Senate stability

Washington, Dec. 19: The top Senate Republican on Thursday denounced the "most unfair" House impeachment of President Donald Trump and reassured Trump and his supporters that "moments like this are why the United States Senate exists."

Signaling in the strongest terms yet that the GOP-controlled Senate will acquit Trump, Majority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky declared that the House impeachment "risks deeply damaging the institutions of American government."

As for what the Senate should do, "It could not be clearer which outcome would serve the stabilising, institution-preserving, fever-breaking role for which the United States Senate was created and which outcome would betray it," McConnell said.

He described Trump's impeachment in the House as "the most rushed, least thorough and most unfair impeachment inquiry in modern history."

Fighting back and using McConnell's own words,

Q This is the most rushed, least thorough and most unfair impeachment inquiry in modern history. The Democratic-controlled House has let its partisan rage at this particular president create a toxic new precedent that will echo well into the future.

— MITCH MCCONNELL
Majority Leader

Democratic leader Chuck Schumer of New York then said on the Senate floor that the Republican leader was plotting the "most rushed, least thorough and most unfair" impeachment trial in history. McConnell accused House Speaker Nancy Pelosi of being afraid to send "their shoddy work product to the Senate" after she threw uncertainty into the impeachment process late Wednesday by refusing to say when she would send two impeachment articles to the Senate for a trial.

He said the Democratic-controlled House "has let its partisan rage at this particular president create a toxic new precedent that will echo well into the future." — AP

Having skills and knowledge that are both deep and broad A person who uses an excessive number of jargon terms when speaking or writing

India-China talks in Agra: No give or take



Mohan Guruswamy

The Indian and Chinese special representatives, national security adviser Ajit Doval and state councillor and foreign minister Wang Yi, will have their 22nd round of talks ostensibly to discuss the "border issue" on December 21 in Agra under the shadow of that eternal symbol of love, the Taj Mahal. But will love bloom between the two countries? It seems extremely unlikely. There is now a monotonous regularity in these talks and no resolution of the vexatious border issue seems to be in sight, let alone be discussed. Since the border issue now seems very intractable, the two representatives have broadened the scope of the talks to discuss other bilateral issues. Nevertheless, while it is clearly understood that the resolution of the border territories dispute may never be on the horizon, but at least agreeing on where

the interim lines of control lie the military vigil on the borders will ease off into a less tense standstill. Sadly for us, there was a time when with a little bit of give and take this contentious and now protracted problem seemed solvable. In 1960 Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai suggested something akin to a status quo as a permanent solution. This was repeated in 1982 by Chairman Deng Xiaoping to India's ambassador in Beijing G. Parthasarathy. Once again it was offered during Rajiv Gandhi's tenure as Prime Minister to then Indian ambassador A.P. Venkateswaran and the senior adviser to then Chinese PM Zhao Ziyang. But when Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi visited Beijing in 1988, both countries decided to keep a permanent solution aside and focus on immediate "doables". All along India felt that the internal political situation will not allow the government of the day the room to go with it. It

hasn't changed much, with the historical issues even less understood and inflamed public opinions prevailing on both sides. What is commonly referred to as the "border dispute" between India and China has now manifested itself into two distinct disputes. The first is the dispute over two large and separated tracts of territories. One is Aksai Chin, a virtually uninhabited high-altitude desert expanse of about 37,000 sq km. The other is what is now the Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh, a diversely populated hill region with a population of around 1.4 million people spread out over 84,000 sq km, which China claims as Lower Tibet. Aksai Chin lies between Jammu and Kashmir, and China's Xinjiang province, both regions that are also riven by separatist conflicts. Arunachal Pradesh borders Tibet, which also has a separation conflict with China. India claims that these borders were agreed upon by British India, and independent or semi-independent authorities, in Xinjiang and Tibet in the early days of the last century. China doesn't agree with these. Both countries agree that these are legacies of history and cannot be solved in the immediate or near term and

The new geopolitics and the new interdependent economics also will not permit a major dislocation in the world order. But the rise of new nationalisms has also led to a hardening of hearts. The agreement also requires local commanders to frequently meet and exchange views and sort out local differences across the table. Despite the adverse geographical and climatic conditions, and the overarching tensions between Asia's biggest economies and military powers, the troops on the ground are able to show surprising bonhomie and friendliness. But periodically, either due to a misunderstanding or local-level posturing by either side, there are frictions that threaten to erupt into a conflict with use of arms. But it has not happened since 1967, when the two armies fought a fierce localised battle in the Sikkim sector, quite close to where the recent Doklam dispute took place. The two countries have been engaged in frequent talks at various levels since 1981. After Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's visit to Beijing in 1988, both countries had agreed to set up a task force to find a solution to the "border issue". Chairman Deng, welcoming his "young friend", suggested that they "forget the past" as they stood in the centre of the cavernous Great Hall of the People in Beijing and the handshake lasted three long minutes. For three long decades since

then, the two countries have been meeting to discuss the border issue, but so far we have seen unwillingness by both sides to forget the past. Since 2003, these talks were elevated to a high-level political dialogue between special representatives, in India's case the national security adviser and in China's case an official at the level of state councillor. The first meeting at this level took place between Indian NSA Brajesh Mishra and Chinese state councillor Dai Bing Guo. We are now having the 22nd round of this dialogue between India's NSA Ajit Doval and China's state councillor Wang Yi. A former Indian NSA once told me that the talks are high in style and hospitality, with the Indian side trying hard to match the Chinese, but there has been little traction. This is because of the versions of the claims that have been internalised and now form public opinion in both countries. Both countries are gripped by strong nationalism bordering on jingoism, which makes give and take, so vital in the resolution of such vexatious disputes, extremely difficult. But the Border Management and Cooperation Agreement is a major outcome of these talks, and that has by and large

worked. The next logical step of these talks should be to agree on a LAC. Unfortunately, however, even that is now being weighed down by aggressive nationalism driven by the social media, that equates "giving up" with national loss of face. This is something that is increasingly very important to both countries. We will not be seen giving up anything, even our obduracy and historical short-sightedness. Both countries are now very different than what they were in the last century. Both India and China are relatively prosperous and militarily powerful, but not so powerful to take by force what they desire. The new geopolitics and the new interdependent economics also will not permit a major dislocation in the world order. But the rise of new nationalisms has also led to a hardening of hearts. Neither now seems capable of giving or taking. So once again, when Ajit Doval and Wang Yi meet in Agra this weekend, both sides will not give away anything and we will have to wait for another time for that.

The writer, a policy analyst studying economic and security issues, held senior positions in government and industry. He also specialises in the Chinese economy.

Corbyn's crucifixion will now continue in Labour conclaves



Saeed Naqvi

Wide Angle

An 18th century Scottish expression has a gentler ring to it than its English variant. The Scottish version comes with its explanation: "Give the dog an ill name and he'll soon be hanged — spoken of those who raise an ill name on purpose to prevent a man's advancement." When I met Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn after the 2016 referendum on Brexit, he shared with me a confidence off the record. His party's vote was divided between Remainers and Leavers from region to region. His singular failure was his inability to compose the dilemma and provide strong leadership. His dilly-dallying was cunningly crushed by Boris Johnson's slogan: "Get Brexit Done". Whether he gets it done or not, is for the future to tell. This failure was compounded by the establishment's brazen demonisation of Mr Corbyn's persona. The trick was simple. Do not indicate that his socialism is the target. Just keep up the chant that Mr Corbyn is unacceptable, that he has horns on his forehead. Even journalists of such standing as Andrew Marr and Andrew Neil would frame the question thus: "To what extent was Corbyn the cause of Labour's defeat?" It was a disingenuous variation on "Have you stopped beating your wife?" The most sensible suggestion has come from Mr Corbyn's shadow chancellor of the exchequer John McDonnell, "Let us have a national debate on the media's role in our politics". The suggestion should reverberate in India as well. London remains a cosmopolitan hub, where Boris Johnson has not made much of an impression. Scottish nationalism always had a mellowness of single malt, lilt of the bagpipes and the quaintness of kilts. This nationalism is not claustrophobic because it also reaches out to the EU. In Northern Ireland, Republicanism has gained — so Dublin becomes closer, not farther from Belfast. The very first to greet Mr Johnson had been Donald Trump, his business cohorts smacking their lips at the prospect of a burgeoning Anglo-Saxon club, particularly now that France's Emmanuel Macron is thumbing his nose at Mr Trump's America. And Mr

Macron is not alone. The scale of Boris Johnson's victory boosts what I call Bannonomism sky high. Let me explain. George Soros and Steve Bannon, who is a friend of Mr Trump and the KKK, have been shuttling around Europe trying to divert popular anger away from socialism, which contemporary capitalism paints in lurid colours. It is McCarthyism to its tips. While Mr Soros, a liberal capitalist, seeks an integrated Europe to thwart "Leftism", Mr Bannon, Mr Trump's conscience-keeper, is keen for Italy's Matteo Salvini, France's Marine Le Pen, Spain's Santiago Abascal and Britain's Nigel Farage to clasp hands and shift Europe so far right as to be teetering on fascism. This school received a boost on Wednesday. It would be irresponsible to describe Mr Johnson as closet Fascist but his friend Nigel Farage is. If one surveys the rise of anti-migrant, anti-semitic parties from Victor Orban of Hungary to leaders in Austria, Germany, Poland — it is a depressing list. In the presence of US secretary of state Mike Pompeo, Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu and others, Israeli foreign minister Yisrael Katz accused the Polish leadership of anti-semitism in almost abusive language: "Poles suckle anti-Semitism from their mother's milk". This, from a public platform in Warsaw. The Warsaw incident came to mind as soon as I saw Tory leader Michael Gove appear behind the microphones at the Tory headquarters to prime up the mood before Mr Johnson made his first appearance after the historic victory. It was the sort of time in the morning when people want bed tea. Suddenly, a stern looking Mr Gove is brought slowly into focus. And, lo and behold, the only community he mentions are Jews. "Through this campaign, our Jewish citizens have

been living in fear." Then a Churchillian pause: "No longer will Jews live in fear," he thundered. Why this outburst? There is a background to this inexplicable intervention. Baroness Sayeeda Warsi, former co-chair of the Conservative Party, has been fairly regular in complaining that "anti-Muslim" prejudice had "poisoned" the party. The principal "culprits" in her line of fire were Boris Johnson, Michael Gove and Zac Goldsmith. Mr Gove's generosity of expression in favour of Jews, at the moment of Tory triumph, is designed to send a message to the Warsis in the party: like it or lump it. How can the Tories have forgotten Mr Gove's brazenly anti-Muslim book *Celsius 7/7* published in 2006? Mr Corbyn was battered and bruised not only through this campaign but over the years as a "danger to Britain", "traitor", a friend of Hugo Chavez, Fidel Castro and other "devilish" characters. By sheer incantation, some of it sank in. Of course, Mr Johnson's message was simpler: "Get Brexit Done". What the mainstream media will keep mum about: alternatives like the *London Economic*, a digital newspaper, publishes, and with increasing credibility. It is universally proclaimed that Mr Johnson lies, fiddles expense accounts, is seen at European airports in a daze after late-night parties but he remains the darling of the electorate, as result 2019 has shown. Another *London Economic* analysis shows that people generally have another perspective when presented with policy options but the very same people vote in a completely different direction. Why? Because the media is bombarding the voter with high-level right-wing propaganda. Lord Rothermere, a billionaire living in France, owns the *Daily Mail* and the *Metro*. Rupert Murdoch, billionaire US citizen, owns the *Sun*, *Fox News*, *BSkyB*, *News Corp*. Alexander Evgeny, ex-KGB Russian billionaire, owns the *Independent*, *Evening Standard*. Richard Desmond, a billionaire, did own the *Daily Star* and if it has passed onto someone else, it certainly is not to the Socialist International. In brief, 80 per cent of the media is owned by billionaires. For those of us grieving in India on this score, is there not a pattern? As the late Bobby Talyarkhan used to sign off his column: "Do you get me, Steve?"

The writer is a senior journalist and commentator based in New Delhi

Bring fresh outlook and vision to New Year



Swami Tejomayananda

The New Year is always a joyous occasion. It is a time that people look forward to, a year full of challenges and promises, of prosperity and good times with their loved ones. In India, during the course of the year we celebrate many new years. According to the Hindu calendar, the first day of Chaitra, the first month of the year, is the beginning of the Hindu New Year. In Maharashtra, it is called Gudi Padwa, whereas the

Sindhis call it Cheti Chand. We also have Vishu, Baisakhi and Holi. It is customary to wish each other "Happy New Year", but have we ever thought about what really constitutes such a year? A year becomes really new when we bring to it a fresh outlook and vision. Material pursuits will lead to us gaining more and more of the same or similar things. They can only bring about a quantitative change. A millionaire can become a billionaire.

However, they cannot bring about a qualitative change. More of the same material things cannot bring a real change in our lives. You may win the rat race, but you still remain a rat — maybe a fat rat! Once, a businessman told me, "In spiritual life, one follows the philosophy of live or let live; in business it is kill or get killed." What can be the quality of such a life, with this type of thinking? How many will you kill? How many are waiting to kill you? Is this a situation in which one wishes to find oneself? It is only when we seek and work for something greater, higher and nobler

that we can accomplish a qualitative change in our life. All of us wish for a beautiful and joyful New Year. Only that which is new and fresh, moment-to-moment, can be called *sundaram* or beautiful. Like a sunrise or a full moon night is ever beautiful: It has a freshness and newness to it at all times. *Sundaram* is that which melts your heart, which inspires you when you think about it, look at it or hear about it. It evokes deep emotions. We should not only cultivate outer beauty but inner beauty of the mind and intellect. In addition to a year that

is beautiful and joyful, we should wish for our loved ones a year that is auspicious — *shubhamand* joyful. Indulgences and pleasures can give us sensational joy or thrill but not auspiciousness. They can lead to destruction. True greatness comes only with spiritual vision. Therefore, the wish for the New Year is to bring us the joys of the world; and auspiciousness and goodness through higher, greater, nobler pursuits leading to success and fulfilment in life. *Swami Tejomayananda is from Chinmaya Mission. To find out more about Chinmaya Mission and Swamiji, visit www.chinmayamission.com. © Central Chinmaya Mission Trust.*

Move to scrap privy purses by Feb. next

50 YEARS AGO IN DECCAN Chronicle NEW DELHI, DEC. 19. The Rajya Sabha today adopted a non-official resolution directing the Government to take all legal and other steps for the abolition of privy purs-

es and privileges of ex-rulers. Earlier, Home Minister Y.B. Chavan assured the House that a final decision on this would be taken before the February Budget session of Parliament. The resolution moved by Mr. Banka Behari Das (PSP) and adopted by the House, with only one dis-

senting voice of Mr. Loka Nath Misra (Swa.) asked the Government to take all legal and other steps for the abolition of privy purses of ex-rulers before the next budget session. Before the resolution was passed, two amendments moved by Mr. Bhawani Prasad Tiwari and another by Mr. Niranjana Varma (JS) were

withdrawn and a third amendment was negated by the House. Mr. Chavan, told the House the process of negotiations with the princes which had already started, would be completed by the end of 1969 and "thereafter we will take our decision." "I have every reason to think that the final decision will be taken before

the next Budget session," he said. Mr. Chavan said, both he and the Prime Minister had invited the representatives of princes to discuss the problem on December 24. Before that Prime Minister was meeting some of the princes who are members of Parliament on December 22.

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Queen outlines Brexit, NHS plans

New immigration system, tougher sentencing for terrorists on Boris agenda

SNP pushes bid for independence



Voters have put the country back on constitutional track

— Abdelkader Tebboune
Algerian President

IN BRIEF

Bolivia orders arrest of Morales

La Paz: Bolivia's attorney general ordered the arrest of exiled former president Evo Morales after the interim government accused him of sedition and terrorism. Public prosecutors in La Paz signed a warrant for police to detain the 60-year-old — who is in Argentina — and take him to the attorney general's office. Morales fled Bolivia last month after civil unrest broke out following his re-election in an October 20 poll widely dismissed as rigged. The former trade union leader denounced the arrest order as "illegal, unfair and unconstitutional" on Twitter. "I'm not worried. As long as I'm alive I'll continue with greater strength."

UN slams rights abuse in N. Korea

New York: The United Nations General Assembly condemned "the long-standing and ongoing systematic, widespread and gross violations of human rights in and by" North Korea in an annual resolution that Pyongyang's N envoy rejected. The resolution, sponsored by dozens of countries including the United States, was adopted by the 193-member General Assembly without a vote. North Korea's UN envoy Kim Song said that the resolution has "nothing to do with the genuine promotion and protection of human rights, as it is an impure product of political plots by hostile forces that seek to tarnish the dignity and image of the DPRK and overthrow our social system."

COLD WINTERS IN MOSCOW VANISH

Moscow, Dec. 19: Residents of Moscow are wondering where winter has gone as the highest December temperatures for 133 years deprive the Russian capital of its customary covering of snow. At a time when snow often blankets the streets and icicles hang from buildings, the temperature in Moscow is expected to reach 6 Celsius overnight on Wednesday, according to Elena Vosolyuk of the FOBOS weather centre. The last time Moscow was warmer than 5.3C on Dec. 18 was in 1886, she said. The usual air temperature for December 18 is minus 6.2C, according to Russia's Hydrometeorological Research Centre. The unseasonable warmth has been brought by an atmospheric front from the Atlantic Ocean, and rain, not snow, is forecast for the New Year holiday, Russia's main festive celebration. "We are used to real winters," says a person.

NSW DECLARES EMERGENCY OVER WILDFIRE

Perth, Dec. 19: Australia's most populous state of New South Wales declared a seven-day state of emergency Thursday as oppressive conditions fanned around 100 wildfires. Around 2,000 firefighters were battling the blazes, half of which remain uncontrolled, with the support of US and Canadian backup teams and personnel from the Australian Defence Force. The last state of emergency ran for seven days in mid-November amid "catastrophic" fire risk and was the first implemented in New South Wales since 2013. Central Sydney reached a maximum of 39 degrees Celsius on Thursday, while outer suburbs scorched at 42 Celsius (108 F). A statewide total fire ban announced on Tuesday will remain in place until midnight on Saturday.

London, Dec. 19: Prime Minister Boris Johnson signaled an end to Britain's era of Brexit deadlock on Thursday, announcing a packed legislative programme intended to take the UK out of the European Union on Jan. 31, overhaul everything from fishing to financial services and shore up the country's cash-starved public services.

The commanding House of Commons majority won by Johnson's Conservative Party in last week's general election all but guarantees he will be able to turn those promises into law, although with Brexit casting a shadow over the British economy, there's a question mark over how he will pay for it all. In a speech delivered from a golden throne in Parliament by Queen Elizabeth II, Johnson opened the legislative floodgates after three years in which minority Conservative governments tried in vain to win lawmakers' backing for their Brexit plans.

The Brexit is set to receive its first significant parliamentary vote on Friday. The bill commits Britain to leaving the EU on Jan. 31 and to concluding trade talks with the bloc by the end of 2020.

The government also plans to pass several other Brexit-related measures, including a new "points-based" immigration system that will be introduced after Brexit, when EU citizens will lose the automatic right to live and work in the UK. Johnson also promised "an ambitious programme of domestic reform," including a law committing the government to spend more on the National Health Service,



Britain's Queen Elizabeth II and the Prince of Wales leave the chamber after the State Opening of Parliament by the Queen, in the House of Lords, in London on Thursday.

which has struggled to keep up with growing demand during a decade-long funding squeeze by previous Conservative governments. There were tough-sounding announcements on law and order, including longer sentences for people convicted of terrorist offenses and other serious crimes. The speech also promised to "prioritise investment in infrastructure," and Boris hinted he might revive the idea of a bridge between Northern Ireland and Scotland. — AP

15M tweets on UK polls

London, Dec. 19: More than 15 million tweets were posted during the campaign leading up to Britain's parliamentary election last week, up 66% on the previous election in 2017, Twitter said. The Dec. 12 election, billed as the most important in a generation, was notably acrimonious as activists, politicians, voters and journalists clashed over everything

from Brexit to the health service and whether political leaders could be trusted. Almost 10,000 tweets were sent in just one minute shortly after the publication of the key exit poll, just after voting ended at 10 p.m. Twitter was at the centre of an early controversy about trust when Prime Minister Boris Johnson's ultimately victorious Con-

servatives rebranded their account during a TV debate as "factcheckUK". Twitter warned the party not to mislead the public, and three days later barred political advertising from the platform. On the lighter side, pictures of dogs at polling stations trended from 7 a.m. on election day. Canine-themed posts have become an election day tradition. — Reuters

London, Dec. 19: Scotland's nationalist leader Nicola Sturgeon will consider "all reasonable options" if Prime Minister Boris Johnson tries to stop her from holding a referendum on Scottish independence, she said. Sturgeon's pro-independence, anti-Brexit Scottish National Party (SNP) won 48 of Scotland's 59 parliamentary seats in last week's UK-wide election, which she said showed overwhelming support for her agenda to hold such a referendum. As things stand, a referendum cannot take place without UK government consent. Sturgeon, who heads Scotland's semi-autonomous government, said she would write to Johnson asking him to enter negotiations on transferring the power to hold a referendum from London to Edinburgh. "The question is often posed to me: 'what will you do if Boris Johnson says no?' As I've said before, I will consider all reasonable options to secure Scotland's right to self-determination," she said. Sturgeon refused to be drawn on exactly what those options could be, although she signalled that she did not envisage a Catalonia-style referendum, organised without consent or recognition by the national government. "In line with our values, we acknowledge that a referendum must be legal and that it must be accepted as legitimate here in Scotland and the rest of



I will consider all reasonable options to secure Scotland's right to self-determination. We acknowledge that a referendum must be legal and that it must be accepted as legitimate here in Scotland and the rest of the UK.

— NICOLA STURGEON
SNP leader

the UK, as well as in the European Union, and the wider international community," she said. Scots rejected independence by 55% to 45% in a 2014 referendum and Sturgeon said the case for Scotland to break away from the rest of the UK had not yet been won. She framed her strategy as a fight for Scotland's right to self-determination. Sturgeon argues circumstances have changed since the 2014 vote, mainly because a majority of Scots voted to remain in the European Union in a 2016 referendum, while the United Kingdom as a whole voted to leave. Britain's exit from the bloc is scheduled for Jan. 31. — AP

Court directs for public hanging of Musharraf

SHAFQAT ALI | DC ISLAMABAD, DEC. 19

PAK MILITARY: MUSHARRAF VERDICT AGAINST HUMANITY

DC CORRESPONDENT ISLAMABAD, DEC. 19

Pakistan's special court on Thursday issued the detailed verdict of high treason case against former military ruler Pervez Musharraf, directing his public hanging.

Justice Nazir Akbar opposed the verdict of sentencing Pervez Musharraf to death and cleared him of the accusations while Justice Waqar Seth and Justice Shahid Karim handed him the death penalty. The detailed verdict has been termed as first of its kind.

"We are of the considered view that the accused in this High Treason case has been given more than its due share of fair trial. The protected trial of a constitutional and not any ordinary offence that began six years ago in 2013, has yet to see its end in 2019. The accused, who has been given every opportunity to defend himself, has by his conduct in the proceedings only evinced his utter contempt for the law and legal institutions in this country. The facts of this case are well documented. The documents clearly demonstrate the guilt on the part of the accused. It proves beyond a shadow of reasonable doubt all the charges of High Treason leveled against accused by the state. "It is patent by the act and conduct of the accused facing trial, that

the special court's verdict in high treason case against Pervez Musharraf have been proven true. He said that the armed forces had rendered unmatched sacrifices for the stability in the country and we will not let this stability be compromised. General Ghafoor said that the words used in detailed verdict are "beyond humanity, religion, culture and any other values".

Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) director general Major General Asif Ghafoor said the reservations expressed by the Pakistan Army over



Supporters of former Pakistani military ruler Gen. Pervez Musharraf protest a court's decision to award him the death sentence, in Karachi, Pakistan, on Thursday.

he has persistently and stubbornly strived ever since the commencement of this trial, to delay, retract and in fact evade it. It has been his plea throughout that either on account of ill health or for security hazards he could not reach up to this Court to

face trial," read the judgement. "As a necessary corollary to what has been observed we find the accused guilty as per charge. The convict be therefore hanged by his neck till he dies on each count as per charge.

Govt to disclose its view on verdict

DC CORRESPONDENT ISLAMABAD, DEC. 19

Special assistant to Prime Minister on information and broadcasting, Dr Firdous Ashiq Awan said the government's narrative about the detailed verdict of the special court in the high treason case against Pervez

Musharraf would be made public after its legal team reviews the verdict. She said that the government would comply with the protection of the law and that it was the responsibility of Musharraf's lawyer to decide about the filing of appeal against the decision of the special court. She also added on

Thursday that ensuring transparency and good governance was the top-most priority of present government.

She said that far-reaching reforms were being carried out in the press information department, and a new advertisement policy was being introduced to ensure transparency.



सत्यमेव जयते

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

[DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT]

Invitation of Applications for the National Awards for outstanding services in the field of Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drug) Abuse, 2020.

The National Awards would be given on 26th June, 2020, on the occasion of "International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking".

Categories:

Applications are invited for the National Awards for the outstanding services in the field of Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drug) Abuse under each of the following categories :-

- Institutional Category**
 - Best Integrated Rehabilitation Centre for Addicts (IRCA) for providing rehabilitation services to alcoholics and drug users.
 - Best Panchayati Raj or Municipal Body working for prevention of alcoholism and substance (drug) abuse.
 - Best Educational Institution doing outstanding work in awareness generation and prevention of alcoholism and substance (drug) abuse.
 - Best Non-Profit Institution, other than Serial Number (i), (ii), (iii), with outstanding contribution in Prevention of Alcoholism and Substance (Drug) Abuse.
 - Best Research or Innovation.
 - Best Awareness Campaign.
- Individual Category**
 - Outstanding achievement by an individual.

Procedure for Applications:

- Application can be submitted by organizations, Institutions and Persons fulfilling the prescribed criteria. The Application should be in Hindi or English language only. Criteria laid for each of the above category of awards and full details of the Scheme of National Awards, 2020 may be seen at www.socialjustice.nic.in
- The following agencies or persons are authorized to nominate and recommend eligible institutions or individuals for the Awards:
 - Concerned Ministries or Departments of the Government of India and their Autonomous Institutions with the approval of the Minister-in-charge of the Ministry;
 - State Governments or Union Territory Administrations with the approval of the concerned Chief Minister or Lt. Governors in Union Territory Administrations;
 - Regional Resource and Training Centres working in the field of drug de-addiction within their own jurisdiction;
 - Members of the National Consultative Committee on De-addiction Rehabilitation (NCCDR);
 - Renowned Apex Chambers like Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Confederation of Indian Industry, The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India, etc;
 - Past Awardees;
 - Organizations like University Grants Commission (UGC), All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE), Medical Council of India (MCI), Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS), Universities, Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS), Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS), Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), etc; and
 - Collector of the District/District Magistrate in which the Institution or Individual is working;
 - Commissioner of Commissionerate in which the Institution or Individual is working.
- Only nominations or recommendations emanating from Authorized Agencies or persons, designated for the purpose, supported by adequate justification, shall be considered.
- Applications in the prescribed proforma should be sent to the Joint Secretary (SD), Department of Social Justice & Empowerment, Room No. 616-A, 'A' Wing, Shakti Bhawan, New Delhi - 110001, latest by 31st January, 2020.

Application received after the last date and/or not recommended by the prescribed authority/persons will not be entertained.

davp 38101/11/0034/1920



Deepak out

Indian paceman Deepak Chahar has been ruled out of the third and deciding one-day international against the West Indies after injuring his back

Sun shines on studious southpaw Sandeep

MOSES KONDETY | DC HYDERABAD, DEC. 19

There was cheer in Hyderabad cricket circles when top order batsman Bavanaka Sandeep broke into the hallowed Indian Premier League, at the auction in Kolkata on Thursday. The 27-year-old was picked by home team Sunrisers Hyderabad at his base price of ₹20 lakh. Sandeep couldn't have asked for more. "I have been waiting to be part of the IPL for so many years... a long-pending wish has come true today," the excited player told this newspaper. "Ever since the IPL began, I have been dreaming of playing in the popular league that has such high visibility. This is where people see you, it provides a great platform to represent the country too," the left-hander said. Sandeep is also thrilled about the company he'll keep. "To be

part of the same team as David Warner, Kane Williamson, Jonny Bairstow and other top players is a massive boost. I am overjoyed," he said. The Hyderabad player has been trying his luck at trials with different franchises this year. "I was hopeful of being picked at the IPL auction after good performances in the Mushtaq Ali Trophy (domestic T20 tournament). I am glad everything fell in place. To be selected for the hometown team is a huge bonus... to play in front of home crowds is an added incentive. I will continue to work hard and perform to the best of my ability for the benefit of the team," he said. Sandeep's father Parmeshwar has worked equally hard for his son's career. He gave up eight years of service at Bharat Dynamics Limited, where he was employed as a technician, to take voluntary retirement (at



Bavanaka Sandeep

52) and concentrate on his kid's cricket. "My work timings were harsh — 8 am to 5 pm, which did not allow me to look after Sandeep's coaching," he explains, adding, "ever since Sandeep was born, after my four daughters, I wanted him to

Hyderabad top order batsman Bavanaka Sandeep finally broke into the highly popular Indian Premier League on Thursday when home side Sunrisers Hyderabad picked him at the IPL Auction in Kolkata.

The 27-year-old says he had been waiting to be part of the IPL for so many years — ever since it's inception — and that a long-pending wish has now come true.

At 52, Sandeep's father Parmeshwar gave up eight years of service at Bharat Dynamics Limited to concentrate on his son's cricketing career.

Sir (former director of St John's Sports Coaching Foundation in East Marredpally, Secunderabad) helped us a lot. He did not charge a single rupee for my son's coaching at his academy. He even got Sandeep admitted to St Andrews School and facilitated half-freeship from the fourth standard itself," he informs. "Sandeep had also got a seat at TKR College of Engineering in the sports quota, without paying any donation. I am thankful to everyone," Parmeshwar says. Sandeep made good use of the generosity to begin his senior career with a bang, by smashing a century on Ranji Trophy debut against Jharkhand in 2010. There has been no looking back since. Cricket also got him a satisfying job, as an Inspector in the Income Tax department. Now, it's all about raiding rival teams on ground.



Please keep Sana (Ganguly) out of all these issues ... this post is not true.

— Sourav Ganguly, BCCI chief, on his daughter Sana being dragged into CAA controversy

SHORT TAKES

Leave daughter alone, says Dada

New Delhi: BCCI President Sourav Ganguly has pleaded that his daughter Sana be kept out of any political discourse after a purported post by her, which was claimed to be critical of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, was widely circulated on social media platforms. Ganguly, a decorated former India captain, said the Instagram post was "not true". "Please keep Sana out of all these issues ... this post is not true ... she is too young a girl to know about anything in politics," Ganguly tweeted. A screenshot of an Instagram post, claimed to be by 18-year-old Sana, went viral on social media in which she quoted an excerpt from Khushwant Singh's novel 'The End of India' that was published in 2003. The excerpt read: "Every fascist regime needs communities and groups it can demonise in order to thrive. It starts with one group or two. But it never ends there. A movement built on hate can only sustain itself by continually creating fear and strife. Those of us today who feel secure because we are not Muslims or Christians are living in a fool's paradise." — PTI

Abhishek ton in UP's strong total

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 19

Abhishek Goswami hit a century while Karan Sharma and Sameer Chaudhary got half-tons as Uttar Pradesh put up a strong total against Hyderabad on the first day of the Col C. K. Nayudu Under 23 cricket match here on Thursday. Abhishek slammed 13 fours and a six in his 110 that came off 172 balls. Karan made 85 and Sameer was batting on 55 as UP ended the day at 328/5. For Hyderabad, Ajay Dev Goud took 3 wickets while conceding 66 runs. Brief scores: Uttar Pradesh 328/5 in 90 overs (Abhishek Goswami 110 — 172b, 13x4, 1x6, Karan Sharma 85, Sameer Chaudhary 55 batting, Sandeep Kumar 33 batting, Ajay Dev Goud 3 for 66) vs Hyderabad.

HYD DOWN AFTER DEEP DOUBLE

Patiala: Mandeep Singh scored an unbeaten double century as Punjab pummelled Hyderabad, who were in bad shape in the second innings as well in their Ranji Trophy match on Thursday. Replying to Hyderabad's first innings total of 242, Punjab made 443 for 6 as Mandeep hit 204 not out with the help of 22 boundaries and three sixes in his 301-ball innings. Hyderabad were tottering at 30 for 5 in their second innings when stumps were drawn. In another match, left-arm spinner Akash Vashisht bowled Himachal Pradesh to a 71-run win over Tamil Nadu with a seven-wicket second innings haul in Dindigul. Needing 217 for victory after Test spinner R. Ashwin (4/55) helped Tamil Nadu bowl out Himachal for 154 in the second innings, the home team was bowled out for 145 in 67.5 overs. The Ankit Kalsi-led Himachal team picked up six points to bounce back from a defeat to Saurashtra in the season's opening match.

BRIEF SCORES Hyderabad 242 in 81 overs & 30/5 in 23 overs (Akul P. 2 for 13) vs Punjab 443/6 in 108 overs (Mandeep Singh 204 n.o — 301b, 22x4, 3x6, L. Sharad 26, Anmol Malhotra 80, Karan Kalla 54, Mohammed Siraj 4 for 77). Andhra 211 & 314/3 (Srikar Bharat 102 n.o., Ricky Bhui 100 n.o., Rajneesh Gurbani 2/63, Lalit Yadav 1/26) drew with Vidarbha 441.

Rocket Ronaldo rises

CR7 jumps over two metres for spectacular Juve goal

Genoa (Italy), Dec. 19: Cristiano Ronaldo continued his hot streak as his towering header gave Juventus a 2-1 win at Parma to put Juventus top of the table as Gianluigi Buffon equalled Paolo Maldini's Serie 'A' appearance record.

Ronaldo met Alex Sandro's looping cross with an incredible leap and header just before half-time to put Juve on 42 points, three ahead of Inter ahead of their match with struggling Genoa on Saturday. "I'm really happy with the result... It was a really good goal also because it was the one that won the three points," said Ronaldo, who earlier in the season was off-form amid injury concerns.

"Like I said before I'd had pain in my knee for around a month, but now I'm OK and now I want to help Juventus win trophies," Ronaldo added. His 10th league goal of the season came after Samp's Gianluca Caprari had levelled Paulo Dybala's superb volleyed opener. The Argentine met Alex Sandro's raking cross in the 19th minute with the most delicate of volleys, caressing the ball past Emil Audero from the edge of the box.

Maurizio Sarri's side had so much of the ball they already looked home and dry but they failed to capitalise on their possession and were punished by Gianluca Caprari 10 minutes before the break, the Italian pouncing after Sandro was caught on the ball to crash his finish past Buffon.

However Ronaldo soon sparked into action, first fizzing in a cross that both Gonzalo Higuain and Dybala just only just failed to get contact on. The Portugal forward then put the away side back in front in the final minute of the half with his sixth goal in five matches in all competitions, a hanging header from another pinpoint Sandro cross. — AFP



Cristiano Ronaldo jumps two-metre high to score the second goal for Juventus during their Italian league match against Sampdoria at the Luigi Ferraris stadium in Genoa, Italy, on Wednesday. Juventus won 2-1. — JUVENTUS / CRISTIANO RONALDO

Clasico goes goalless in 17 years

Barcelona, Dec. 19: Real Madrid made a clear statement at Camp Nou Stadium in their first 'Clasico' of the season, showing Barcelona that they have what it takes to dethrone the Spanish champion this season.

The game — played amid heavy security because of separatist protests in the Catalan capital — ended in a 0-0 draw that kept Barcelona top of the Spanish league with a better goal difference. But it was Zinedine Zidane's Madrid that looked the better team and deserved the victory. Thanks to a high-pressing tactic that successfully took possession away from Barcelona, Madrid kept its rival uncomfortable throughout the match. Madrid was the most dangerous team, with Barcelona threatening only the few times Lionel Messi found some space within the Madrid defence.

Madrid pressed high from the start, making it difficult for Barcelona to make the transition from defense to attack. Several times it had to force the ball up field, often leading to passing errors and loss of possession. The hosts ended the match with only 52 per cent of ball possession, well below its average. Barcelona coach Ernesto Valverde made some adjustment at halftime and Barcelona improved

in the second half, when the match was mostly even and with few scoring chances for either team. Still, Madrid finished with 17 attempts against only nine by Barcelona. Madrid had a goal by Gareth Bale disallowed for offside in the second half, and thought it deserved penalties when defender Raphael Varane's jersey was grabbed inside the area and when he was hit on the leg by a high kick. Despite being mostly out-

played, Barcelona had one of the game's best chances when Jordi Alba received a perfect pass by Messi inside the box, shooting it wide. The first scoreless 'Clasico' in 17 years kept the teams tied with 36 points. Barcelona have a two-goal advantage over Madrid on the goal-difference tiebreaker. The game — played in front of a crowd of 93,426 at the Camp Nou — went ahead without any major incidents. — AP

Swede tennis tie for Sports Village

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, DEC. 19

In a major game-changing morale-booster, city-headquartered Sports Village Academia has hit a Scandinavian tennis high.

Academia CEO, Mohd Shamsuddin, who is on a European tour looking for collaborations to promote tennis in India, has finalised a tie-up with Stockholm-based Good to Great Tennis Academy (GGTA) that is promoted by former top-notch Swedish international players.

The principal promoter is former World No.2 singles player, Magnus Norman, whose proteges are players of the calibre of Stan Wawrinka and Gael Monfils with Grigor Dimitrov being a former



Sports Village CEO Mohammad Shamsuddin (left) presents a memento to Mikael Tillstrom, part owner of Good To Great Tennis Academy in Stockholm, Sweden. trainee. Norman's co-partners in the venture include equally big names, and fellow-coaches, Nicklas Kulti and Mikael Tillstrom. A member of the 1998 Davis Cup winning team

and winner of 12 titles, Norman has also coached Thomas Johansson and Robin Soderling.

The deal between the two, which was formalised in the Academy headquarters at Catella Arena on Wednesday, will translate into a win-win situation for both, according to Shamsuddin in Stockholm.

GGTA will send a couple of their proven coaches to Hyderabad for a training camp that Sports Village Academia will conduct on mutually-agreed upon dates. After making a first-hand assessment of the potentialities of the trainees at the camp, the foreign coaches will pick the more talented youngsters and invite them for availing advanced residential training in Stockholm.

Zeena wins gold in 10m air rifle

New Delhi, Dec. 19: Himachal's Zeena Khitta was crowned the new national champion in the Women's 10m Air Rifle at the ongoing 63rd National Shooting Championships for rifle and pistol in Bhopal, comfortably finishing ahead of West Bengal's Mehuli Ghosh and world number three Apurvi Chandel of Rajasthan, who won silver and bronze respectively.

Zeena was fourth in qualifying, but shot a world class 252.2 in the final to top a quality eight-woman field. Mehuli finished with 250.5 while Apurvi logged 227.6 to go out in third. Apurvi did team up with Shriyanka Sadangi and Gayatri Pawaskar to win

the team gold for ONGC. Mehuli also won a double gold on the day with individual and team junior titles in Air Rifle. Among the teams, Rajasthan, Maharashtra and West Bengal were among states that won two gold medals each. — Agencies



Liverpool's Roberto Firmino celebrates after scoring a goal during their Club World Cup semifinal against Monterrey at the Khalifa International Stadium in Doha, Qatar, on Wednesday. Liverpool won the game 2-1. — AP

CLUB | WORLD CUP

Super sub Bobby nets as Reds win

Doha, Dec. 19: Roberto Firmino came off the bench to score a stoppage-time winner as Liverpool edged out Mexican side Monterrey 2-1 at the Club World Cup in Doha on Wednesday and set up a final this weekend against Flamengo.

The game had started very well for Jurgen Klopp's team, with Naby Keita firing them into an early lead, to the delight of almost everyone in the crowd at the Khalifa International Stadium.

However, Monterrey quickly drew level through Argentine striker Rogelio Funes Mori and the most recent winners of the CONCACAF Champions League matched the Reds for long spells.

But then, just as the game moved into the first of three added minutes, and with extra time looming, Firmino popped up to turn a Trent Alexander-Arnold cross into the net from close range and take the Anfield side through. The victory came despite Klopp being without centre-back Virgil van Dijk due to illness, the Dutchman having previously played in every game this season apart from in the League Cup.

Jordan Henderson played in central defence, while Sadio Mane started on the bench along with Firmino and Alexander-Arnold, with Klopp handing starts to the likes of Adam Lallana, Xherdan Shaqiri and Divock Origi. "It was only possible the hard way," said Klopp of the way in which his side won.

"We had problems before the game, we knew we would have some problems in the game, but I really think the boys did exceptionally well," the Liverpool manager added. — AFP

Roberto Firmino came off the bench to score a stoppage-time winner as Liverpool edged out Mexican side Monterrey 2-1 in the Club World Cup semifinal. The Reds will take on Flamengo in the title clash.



Batting coach

Former India player Wasim Jaffer has been appointed the batting coach of Kings XI Punjab for the upcoming season of the IPL

AUSSIERS MAKE MOOLAH

CUMMINS, MAXWELL HEADLINE BIG IPL PAY DAY

Players sold **62**
Total Spent **140.3 CR**

FUNDS REMAINING

- CHENNAI SUPER KINGS** ₹15 lakh
- DELHI CAPITALS** ₹9 crore
- KINGS XI PUNJAB** ₹16.5 crore
- MUMBAI INDIANS** ₹1.95 crore
- KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS** ₹8.50 crore
- RAJASTHAN ROYALS** ₹14.75 crore
- ROYAL CHALLENGERS** ₹6.4 crore
- SUNRISERS HYDERABAD** ₹10.10 crore



GLENN MAXWELL
₹10.75 CR
KINGS XI

Crore-Pat-i Cummins



Kolkata, Dec. 19: Australian cricketers hit pay dirt at the IPL players' auction with pacer Pat Cummins becoming the most expensive foreign buy ever in the league by fetching a whopping ₹15.50 crore bid from two-time champions Kolkata Knight Riders here on Thursday.

All-rounder Glenn Maxwell, who was not considered for the upcoming ODI series against India in January, returned to Kings XI Punjab with a price tag of ₹10.75 crore after an intense bidding war with Delhi Capitals. KXIP went into the auction with the biggest available purse of ₹42.70 crore.

The 31-year-old Maxwell has been on his way back to cricket after taking a sudden break to deal with mental health issues earlier this year. Maxwell's compatriot Nathan Coulter-Nile also enjoyed

a million dollar payday at the auction as Mumbai Indians shelled out ₹8 crore for the pacer.

Australia's limited-overs captain Aaron Finch went for ₹4.40 crore to Royal Challengers Bangalore. Finch, who had opted out of the 2019 IPL, also attracted a bid from KKR. All-rounder Marcus Stoinis was sold to Delhi Capitals for ₹4.8 crore while pacer Kane Richardson will go home richer by ₹4 crore after being bought by RCB.

Australia's big-hitting all-rounder Chris Lynn, who was released by Kolkata Knight Riders ahead of the auction, was bought for his base price of ₹2 crore by defending champions Mumbai Indians, whose open-

ing bid became the winning bid. Similar was the case of seamer Josh Hazlewood, who went for his steep base price of ₹2 crore to Chennai Super Kings. Teams going all out for the 26-year-old Cummins was on expected lines as he has been in top form with the ball and at times has also proved his worth with the bat.

"Can't wait," tweeted Cummins after KKR head coach Brendon McCullum posted a welcome message for him on the micro-blogging site.

"I am very happy to be back in KKR," he later said in a video released by KKR.

Delhi Capitals and Royal Challengers Bangalore were engaged in an intense bidding war for the Australian before KKR joined the battle at ₹15 crore and eventually outbid the two franchises. Cummins has taken 32 wickets in 25 IPL matches so far with an economy of just over 6. He is also the No.1 bowler in ICC Test rankings and has 92 wickets in 77 career T20 matches at an economy of little above 7. —PTI



CHRIS MORRIS
₹10 CR
RCB

To hell and back, Maxwell remains 'Big Show' in IPL

New Delhi, Dec. 19: From hitting a nadir mentally to hitting the jackpot on comeback, Glenn Maxwell has had quite a ride in a matter of months.

Two months back, Maxwell felt "ruined" and perhaps wanted to be somewhere which wouldn't be remotely close to the 22 yards. But cricket, as they say, is a great leveller in every sense of the term.

The game that seemed to have pushed him towards depression has now fetched him a cool \$1.51 million (₹10.75 crore) and probably given him a

chance to pick up the pieces and start afresh.

"Got a lot of great memories Kings XI and can't wait to create some more amazing ones next year. Looking forward to getting back over its been a few years since I've been there. A lot of familiar faces there, great franchise. Can't wait to get back to Mohali and hopefully entertain the crowd," Maxwell posted a video message on his official twitter account. For someone, who is yet to fulfil his true potential for Australia, Maxwell has always been a big draw for the IPL franchises, especially Kings XI Punjab, where he was much sought after.

No wonder then that as he begins a fresh journey after his battles with mental illness, there couldn't have been a bet-

ter franchise to start off with than KXIP, where fans once fondly called him "Glenpreet Singh".

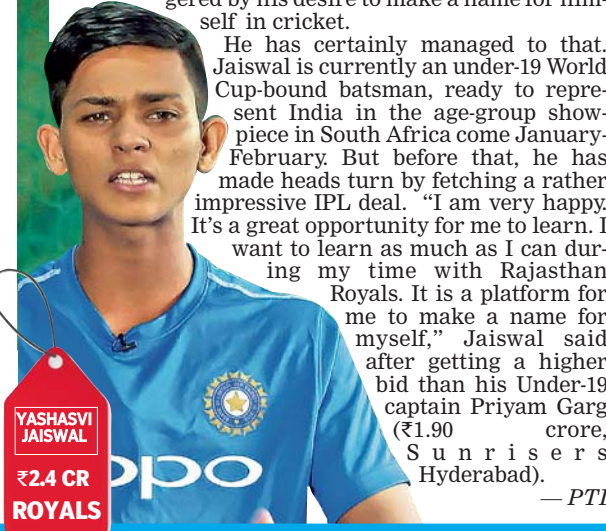
"He was very much on our radar. We needed one of those X-factors. He's been with us in the past so he knows the exact layout of the team," KXIP CEO Sathish Menon said after their franchise won the intense bidding war. Maxwell had only recently opened up about his struggles.

"I was pretty cooked when I decided to take the time off. Big reason why I did take that time away is I was pretty mentally and physically ruined," Maxwell was quoted as saying a few days back after he returned to training. But as Menon put it aptly, he brings the 'X-factor' that the franchises look for in IPL. —PTI

Jaiswal's rags to riches journey

New Delhi, Dec. 19: His is the quintessential rags to riches tale of Thursday's IPL auction but 17-year-old Yashasvi Jaiswal, who once sold panipuri to make a living in Mumbai, considers the ₹2.40 crore deal with Rajasthan Royals a once-in-a-lifetime learning opportunity. His well-documented struggles include living in a tent after coming to Mumbai from his native Uttar Pradesh as an 11-year-old. That move was triggered by his desire to make a name for himself in cricket.

He has certainly managed to that. Jaiswal is currently an under-19 World Cup-bound batsman, ready to represent India in the age-group showpiece in South Africa come January-February. But before that, he has made heads turn by fetching a rather impressive IPL deal. "I am very happy. It's a great opportunity for me to learn. I want to learn as much as I can during my time with Rajasthan Royals. It is a platform for me to make a name for myself," Jaiswal said after getting a higher bid than his Under-19 captain Priyam Garg (₹1.90 crore, Sunrisers Hyderabad). —PTI



YASHASVI JAISWAL
₹2.4 CR
ROYALS

CHAWLA SHARES GREAT RAPPORT WITH SKIPPER DHONI: FLEMING

Kolkata, Dec. 19: Chennai Super Kings coach Stephen Fleming on Thursday said his IPL side traded hard for veteran Piyush Chawla because he shares a "great relationship" with captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni, besides being a quality leg-spinner.

Chawla turned out to be a surprise hit with the franchises during the IPL auction here and was eventually bought by Chennai Super Kings for a whopping ₹6.75 crore. And Fleming said it was a well-thought out decision as CSK heavily rely on spinners in Chepauk's low and slow wicket.

"We traded very hard (for Chawla) and certainly the captain has a great relationship with him. He's proven that he's a quality leg-spinner which we value very highly," the CSK coach said.

"He's a different type of bowler than Karn Sharma. We also had to make some decisions around how all fits in but it was an oppor-

tunity that came up and we took it. We have a pretty well-balanced squad. We've always favoured spin, our home ground is very spin dominant, so having a lot of spinners is not a bad thing."

Fleming said Sam Curran, who was bought for ₹5.5 crore, too was a good pick, considering his all-round abilities. "Well, there were a lot of players... (Pat) Cummins is one that I think most people identified but we didn't have a lot of money. So we had to be very smart. Sam Curran we liked. Yes, he's a left-arm seamer who can bat," he said.

"He has a great attitude towards the game, he really gets into the game. He played well against us in the past." —PTI



PIYUSH CHAWLA
₹6.75 CR
CSK

WE HAVE GOT BEST PLAYER OF IPL AUCTION: KKR COACH McCULLUM

Kolkata, Dec. 19: Kolkata Knight Riders head coach Brendon McCullum on Thursday called Pat Cummins "the best player of the auction" and said that is why the franchise did not mind paying a record ₹15.50 crore for the Australian pacer, the most for a foreign recruit in IPL history.

Teams going all out for the 26-year-old Cummins was on expected lines as he has been in top form with the ball and at times has also proved his worth with the bat. "I thought he was the best player of the auction... as a cricketer he's grown, his body has become robust. He is now the vice-captain of Australia cricket team, which is a mark of his development. Wonderful to secure a world-class player," said McCullum.

Cummins is the No.1 bowler in ICC Test rankings and has 92 wickets in 77 career T20 matches at an economy of just over 7. Delhi Capitals and Royal Challengers Bangalore were engaged in an intense bidding war for Cummins before KKR joined the battle at ₹15 crore and eventually outbid the two franchises. —PTI



KKR coach Brendon McCullum (left) and CEO Venky Mysore.

Cummins has taken 32 wickets in 25 IPL matches so far with an economy of little above 6. With the price he fetched, Cummins broke the record for the most expensive foreign buy held by Ben Stokes.

England all-rounder Stokes was bought by Rising Pune Supergiant for ₹14.5 crore in the 2017 auction. Asked why they bid so late for the Australian pacer, KKR CEO Venky Mysore said "We were determined to get him when we got the first opportunity we got him." —PTI

TOP BUYS

TEAM	PLAYER	PRICE
Kolkata	Pat Cummins	₹15.50 cr
Kings XI	Glenn Maxwell	₹10.75 cr
Bangalore	Christopher Morris	₹10 cr
Kings XI	Sheldon Cottrell	₹8.50 cr
Mumbai Indians	Nathan Coulter-Nile	₹8 cr
Delhi Capitals	Shimron Hetmyer	₹7.75 cr
Super Kings	Piyush Chawla	₹6.75 cr
Super Kings	Sam Curran	₹5.50 cr

NEW ACQUISITIONS

CHENNAI SUPER KINGS		
PLAYER	TYPE	PRICE PAID
Piyush Chawla	Bowler	₹6,75,00,000
Sam Curran	Allrounder	₹5,50,00,000
Josh Hazlewood	Bowler	₹2,00,00,000
R. Sai Kishore	Bowler	₹20,00,000

DELHI CAPITALS		
PLAYER	TYPE	PRICE PAID
Shimron Hetmyer	Batsman	₹7,75,00,000
Marcus Stoinis	Allrounder	₹4,80,00,000
Alex Carey	Keeper	₹2,40,00,000
Jason Roy	Batsman	₹1,50,00,000
Chris Woakes	Allrounder	₹1,50,00,000
Mohit Sharma	Bowler	₹50,00,000
Tushar Deshpande	Bowler	₹20,00,000
Lalit Yadav	Allrounder	₹20,00,000

KINGS XI PUNJAB		
PLAYER	TYPE	PRICE PAID
Glenn Maxwell	Allrounder	₹10,75,00,000
Sheldon Cottrell	Bowler	₹8,50,00,000
Chris Jordan	Allrounder	₹3,00,00,000
Ravi Bishnoi	Bowler	₹2,00,00,000
Prabhsimran Singh	Keeper	₹55,00,000
Deepak Hooda	Allrounder	₹50,00,000
James Neesham	Allrounder	₹50,00,000
Tajinder Dhillon	Allrounder	₹20,00,000
Ishan Porel	Bowler	₹20,00,000

KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS		
PLAYER	TYPE	PRICE PAID
Pat Cummins	Allrounder	₹15,50,00,000
Eoin Morgan	Batsman	₹5,25,00,000
Varun C	Allrounder	₹4,00,00,000
Tom Banton	Batsman	₹1,00,00,000
Rahul Tripathi	Batsman	₹60,00,000
Chris Green	Allrounder	₹20,00,000
Nikhil Shankar	Keeper	₹20,00,000
Pravin Tambe	Bowler	₹20,00,000
M Siddharth	Bowler	₹20,00,000

MUMBAI INDIANS		
PLAYER	TYPE	PRICE PAID
Nathan Coulter-Nile	Bowler	₹8,00,00,000
Chris Lynn	Batsman	₹2,00,00,000
Saurabh Tiwary	Batsman	₹50,00,000
Digvijay Deshmukh	Allrounder	₹20,00,000
Prince Balwant	Allrounder	₹20,00,000
Mohsin Khan	Bowler	₹20,00,000

RAJASTHAN ROYALS		
PLAYER	TYPE	PRICE PAID
Robin Uthappa	Batsman	₹3,00,00,000
Jaydev Unadkat	Bowler	₹3,00,00,000
Yashasvi Jaiswal	Allrounder	₹2,40,00,000
Kartik Tyagi	Bowler	₹1,30,00,000
Tom Curran	Allrounder	₹1,00,00,000
Andrew Tye	Bowler	₹1,00,00,000
Anuj Rawat	Keeper	₹80,00,000
David Miller	Batsman	₹75,00,000
Oshane Thomas	Bowler	₹50,00,000
Anirudha Ashok	Allrounder	₹20,00,000
Akash Singh	Bowler	₹20,00,000

ROYAL CHALLENGERS BANGALORE		
PLAYER	TYPE	PRICE PAID
Christopher Morris	Allrounder	₹10,00,00,000
Aaron Finch	Batsman	₹4,40,00,000
Kane Richardson	Bowler	₹4,00,00,000
Dale Steyn	Bowler	₹2,00,00,000
Isuru Udana	Allrounder	₹50,00,000
Shahbaz Ahamad	Keeper	₹20,00,000
Joshua Philippe	Keeper	₹20,00,000
Pavan Deshpande	Allrounder	₹20,00,000

SUNRISERS HYDERABAD		
PLAYER	TYPE	PRICE PAID
Mitchell Marsh	Allrounder	₹2,00,00,000
Priyam Garg	Batsman	₹1,90,00,000
Virat Singh	Batsman	₹1,90,00,000
Fabian Allen	Allrounder	₹50,00,000
Sandeep Bavanaka	Allrounder	₹20,00,000
Sanjay Yadav	Allrounder	₹20,00,000
Abdul Samad	Allrounder	₹20,00,000

RAHUL NAMED KINGS XI PUNJAB CAPTAIN

New Delhi, Dec. 19: India opener K. L. Rahul was on Thursday named captain of the Kings XI Punjab franchise for the 2020 edition of the Indian Premier League.

"We are happy to appoint Rahul as our captain for the upcoming season. He has been through a lot in the last year or so and has now come back strongly," KXIP co-owner Ness Wadia said. "He has silenced his critics. You will get to see his ability not just as a batsman but also as a captain. He was our unanimous choice," he added.

KXIP had bought Rahul for a whopping ₹11 crore ahead of the 2018 season. Rahul's ascendancy to captaincy was expected after R. Ashwin was traded to Delhi Capitals last month. —PTI



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