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India to get chief of defence staff; will be 4-star Gen

Gen. Rawat front-runner for post PAWAN BALI **Nuclear control** NEW DELHI, DEC. 24

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Nuclear

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CBI books Maruti ex-MD Khattar

Cabinet clears proposal for conducting census 2021 at cost of ₹8,754.23cr NPR not linked to NRC, says govt

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The government's denial came in the face of politi-cal parties like the Trinamul Congress and the CPI(M) alleging that the government is trying to sneak in NRC through NPR Later, home minister

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Amit Shah denied any such move and the home ministry even issued an explanatory note describing in detail what the NPR and the census exercise is. The Cabinet also cleared the proposal for conducting census 2021 at a cost of ₹8,754.23 crore. Minister for information

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Kolkata: West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday claimed

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UP police admits IAS aspirant was killed in firing at protesters

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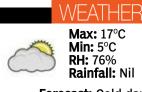


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Kannur: Karnataka CM B.S. Yediyurappa's vehicle was attacked in Kannur on Tuesday. He was attacked by DYFI activists, according to reports. Three activists. who also waved black flags at Yeddiyurappa, were immediatedly arrested.



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over bank fraud

Firm caused ₹110cr loss to PNB

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, DEC. 24

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Soren meets gov Murmu, stakes claim to form govt

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Protesters display pictures of various freedom movement leaders during a demonstration against CAA at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi on Tuesday. – PTI

Cops stop Priyanka, Rahul outside Meerut AGE CORRESPONDENT with agency inputs NEW DELHI, DEC. 24

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2019 WAS 'QUITE BUMPY', SAYS QUEEN



In this image released on Tuesday, Britain's Queen Elizabeth II poses for a photo while recording her annual Christmas Day message at Windsor Castle. Excerpts released by Buckingham Palace of the pre-recorded message to be broadcast on TV on Christmas Day,

both Britain and her family have endured a difficult year. She described 2019 as "quite bumpy" in her message at the end of a chaotic year which saw Britain bitterly divided over its split from the European Union and her scandal-plagued son Prince Andrew withdraw from public life. **Report on Page 11**

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Stalin, 8,000 others booked for protests

Chennai: The Chennai police has registered cases against DMK president M.K. Stalin and 8,000 others who took part in the protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act held in the city on December 23. Chennai police commissioner A.K.

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German student sent back for stir

Madras: A German student at IIT-Madras is on his way back

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Eco slowdown: IMF calls for action by India

New Delhi, Dec. 24: India's government must take steps quickly to reverse the economic slowdown of an economy that has been one of the engines of global growth, International the Monetary Fund said Monday.

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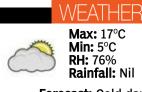


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(25 दिसम्बर, 1924 - 16 अगस्त, 2018)

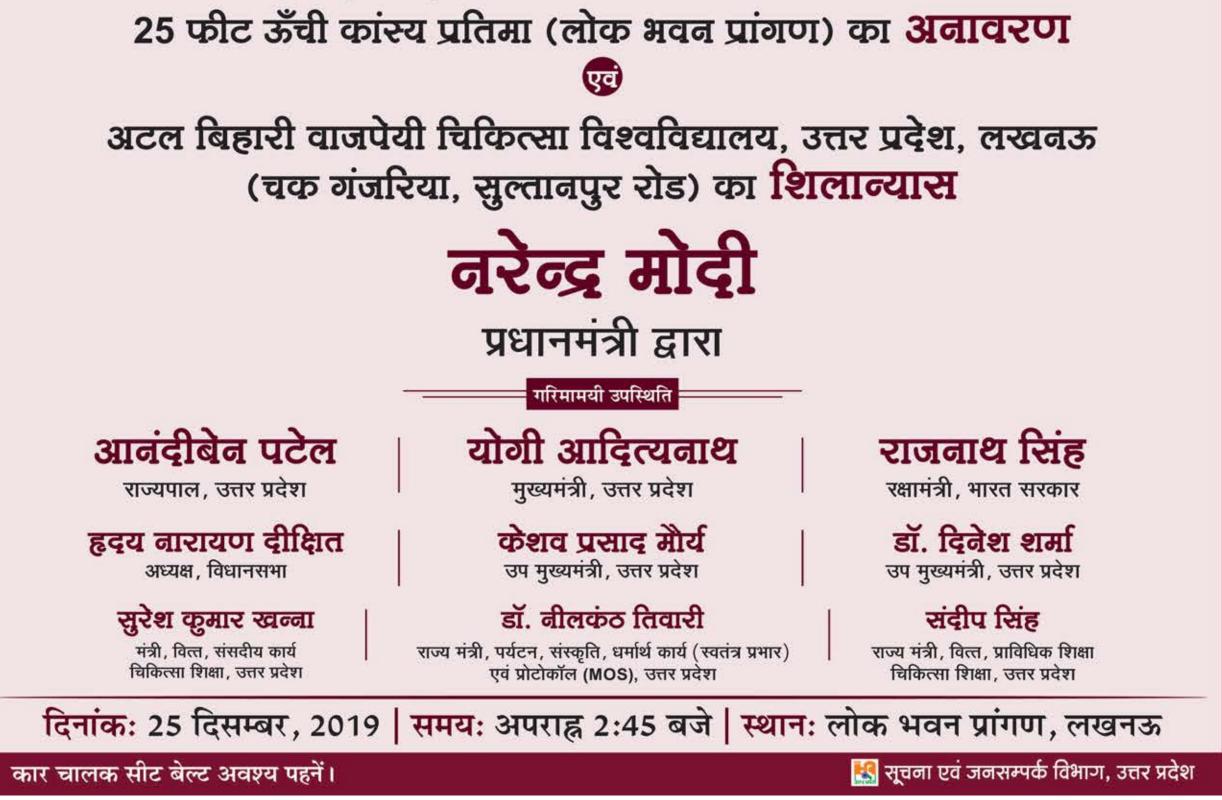
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- नरेन्द्र मोदी, प्रधानमंत्री

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Urging Naidu Farmers meet V-P M. Venkaiah

Naidu, ask him to ensure no relocation of Andhra's capital



ation



I urge the PM to apologise (over Urban Naxal remark) to the people of the nation

> - D.K. Shivakumar, **Congress** leader

BRIFF Ν Girl kills self over

b'day celebration Tikamgarh, MP: A 16-year-old girl allegedly committed suicide in Tikamgarh in Madhya Pradesh after getting upset over some unidentified boys celebrating her birthday in a crass manner, the police said on Tuesday. She hanged herself in her home on Monday night in Tharbarana village, some 55 km from the district headquarters, said Jatara police station in charge Anand Singh Parihar. "Some boys reached her village on December 22 and celebrated her birthday by playing loud music, dancing and announcing her name on the speaker. It upset her and it seems she took the extreme step after this incident," he said. She is a Class 10 student and the boys are possibly from her school in a neighbouring village and efforts were on to identify them, the official added. - PTI

2 siblings die of asphyxiation

Bihar Sharif: Two siblings died of suspected asphyxiation in their sleep while their mother was taken ill in Mitma village in Bihar's Nalanda district on Tuesday, the police said. The deceased have been identified as Sneha (7) and Abhinandan (9), superintendent of police, Nilesh Kumar said, adding that they may have died of asphyxiation. The exact rea-son behind the death could be known once post-mortem report comes, he said, adding that the bodies have been sent to Bihar Sharif sadar hospital for post-mortem. The mother Veena Devi has been admitted to a hospital, the SP added. - PTI

4 men get life for murder over land

Kota: A special court in has sentenced four persons to life imprisonment for murdering a 30-year-old man over a land dispute nine years ago. A fifth accused was acquitted while a fine of ₹10,000 each on the four convicts was imposed by the court. SC/ST court Judge Swati Sharma on Monday held the four accused guilty of murder under Section 302 (punishment for murder) of IPC and pronounced life imprisonment to all the four, public prosecutor Bherulal Bansiwal said. – PTI

4 teens gangrape minor girl, film act on cellphone

Accused threatened to make video go viral if she informed police

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY BHOPAL, DEC. 24

trict.

Four teenagers in Madhya Pradesh village allegedly gangraped a 14year-girl and then filmed the incident, the police said on Tuesday.

night ago, the victim

reported the matter to the

police on Monday night,

leading to arrest of four accused," the police said. The four accused had

threatened the victim, a

Class 9 student, to make

the video of the incident

viral if she reported the matter to the police.

"The victim was so

scared and traumatised

by the incident that she

could not even recall properly when exactly

the incident took place.

She only said the inci-

dent took place on a Sunday. Her medical

examination was done,'

Sidhi district additional

superintendent of police

(ASP) Anjulata Patel told

SP shifted

after BJP

MP FIR

BHOPAL, DEC. 24

triggers row

AGE CORRESPONDENT

A political row has

erupted over the trans-

fer of a MP district SP a

few hours after an FIR

was filed against Guna BJP MP K.P. Yadav, who

shot into limelight in the

last Lok Sabha elections

by defeating AICC gen-

eral secretary Jyotiraditya Scindia, for

Ashok Nagar district

SP Pankaj Kumawat was

shifted to police headquarters within 24 hours

after the forgery case

his

allegedly faking income certificate.

The shocking incident took place in the village of Jamodi in Sidhi dis-"Although the incident took place around a fort-

unidentified ants The incident came to fore on Tuesday morning after her half-naked mutilated body was found near a forest at Temarimal village under Paikamal police limits in the district. As per reports, the

Friday evening to attend family members

this

Minor stoned to death after alleged gangrape in Odisha

AKSHAYA KUMAR

SAHOO Later, the family mem-BHUBANESWAR, DEC. 24 bers of the girl lodged a missing complaint at A minor girl in Odisha's the Paikamal police sta-Bargarh district was allegedly raped and then stoned to death by tion on Monday. On Tuesday morning, a few locals spotted her halfnaked body with critical miscreinjuries in her head and

spine-chilling hands near a forest and immediately called up the police. The Paikamal police reached the spot and began an inquiry into the incident. "Prima the facie, it is suspected that the girl was stoned to death after being sexually assaulted by mis-

minor went outside on creants. We are probing nature's call and did not into the incident and we are quite hopeful to arrest the culprits return after that. Her arrest searched for her every involved in the crime,' here and there, but in the local police said.

newspaper. According to the police, the victim had gone to local market along with friends left for their

respective homes. She was waylaid by four boys, all in the age group of 16-17 years, when she got off the autorickshaw at a place close to her

home. accused then The dragged her to a nearby deserted area and then took turns to rape her. One of the four accused

THE ASIAN AGE

video-graphed the incident too, the police said quoting the victim. The accused had threatened her not to inform the matter to the police.

The girl, however, gath-ered courage and narrated the incident to her parents who took her to the police on Monday night to file the complaint.

The four accused were produced at the local court on Tuesday, which remanded them to judicial custody. Madhya Pradesh has earned the dubious dis-tinction of recording

highest number of cases of rape in the country. According to official report, 10,279 cases of

rape have been reported in the state between January 1, 2018 November 20, 2019. and Trailer carrying old aircraft stuck under bridge



her friends. However, she

had to return to her

house alone after her

on NH-2 at Durgapur in Burdwan district of West Bengal on Tuesday.

BJP eyeing control of **Srinagar** civic body

YUSUF JAMEEL SRINAGAR, DEC. 24

The BJP is making an all-out effort to wrest the control of Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC). The party (SMC). The party already controls the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC).

A day after mayor Junaid Azim Mattu, in a preemptive move to stop the BJP from dislodging him, reportedly struck a deal with the Congress and got a no-confidence motion moved against deputy mayor Sheikh Imran to remove him, the saffron party on Tuesday moved a similar motion against him. Mr Imran is among several hundred political leaders and activists, trade union leaders and members of civil society groups incarcerated ahead or immediately after the Centre stripped Jammu and Kashmir of its special status and split the state up into two union territories on August 5. Mr Muttu, too, was among the detainees but set free later . The

no-confidence against Mr motion Imran had the support of 47 out of 70 corpora-tors of the SMC, leading to his removal on Monday. Ironically, Mr Imran had earlier this year publicly pledged his support to Mr Muttu, ending the acrimony that existed between the two since when

Mr Mattu, who left NC in October last year, had joined hands with Peoples' Conference chair-man Sajad Gani Lone.

'16 temple fire: **Probe blames** police & admin

Kochi, Dec. 24: The Justice P.S. Gopinathan Commission, which probed into the 2016 mishap involving fireworks at a temple in Kollam district, has found lapses on the part of the police and the district administration in causing the traged which left over 100 dead. In one of the worst temple tragedies in Kerala, as many as 110 people died and more than 300 injured during an explosion as an unauthorised display of fireworks display was going on at the Puttingal temple precincts in the early hours of April 10, 2016.



NORTHERN RAILWAY

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of Can Fin Homes Ltd. under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security nterest Act 2002 and in exercise of powers under the said Act and security interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 issued a demand notice dated 08.08.2019 calling upon the corrowers Ravinder Rajan and Rama Devi to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being Rs.22.38.928/- with further interest at contractual rates, till date of realization within 60 days from the date of the said notice

The borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the borrower and the public in general that the undersigned is proceeding to take possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred under section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 of the said Rules on this 20th day of December 2019. The borrower's attention is invited to provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act,

in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets. The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of CFHL for and

amount of Rs. 22,38,928/- and interest thereor DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY Plot No. G-74, Entire Second Floor, Balaji Enclave, Ghaziabad, U.P. East: Khet Lellu, West: Rasta, North: Plot No. G-73, South: Plot No. G-75

Date: 20.12.2019

Authorised Officer Can Fin Homes Ltd

SHO

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED

General public is hereby informed that a girl namely Tannu, D/o: Surender, R/o: H. No. 115, Vill-Sannoth, Narela, Delhi has been reported missing/kidnapped since 06.12.2019 from the area of P.S. Narela, Delhi. In this regard DD No. 20-A, dated 07.12.2019 has been registered at P.S. Narela, Delhi. Sincere efforts have been made by local police

Tannu to trace out the missing/kidnapped girl but no clue has come to light so far. The description of missing/kidnapped girl is as under

Name: Tannu, Age: 18 Years, Height: 5', Face: Round, Complexion: Fair, Wearing: Pink colour suit, blue jacket & red colour pajami and chappal in feet.

If anyone have any information about this missing/kidnapped girl please inform P.S. Narela, Delhi

Web: http://cbi.nic.in, Email: cic@cbi.gov.in Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639

> Police Station, Narela, Delhi Ph: 011-27282350, 27285839

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED WOMAN



DP/885/ON/19

General public is hereby informed that this woman namely Mamta W/o Harnam Chauhan R/o Gali No. 01, Shri Ram Colony, Singhu Border, Narela, Delhi Age: 30 years, Height: 4'9", Complexion : Sallow, Face : Round, wearing red colour suitsalwar and chapple in feet, has been missing/kidnapped since 09.10.2019

alongwith her two son name 1. Yash Kumar : Age : 8 years, and 2. Sonu : Age : 6 years, from the area of P.S. Narela, Delhi. In this regard DD No. 48-A dated 25.11.2019 has been lodged at P.S. Narela, Delhi.

Locals gather after a trailer carrying an old aircraft gets stuck under an overbrige

WIFE ADMITS **TO KILLING MAN TO MINISTER**

Ambala: A woman here handed over a letter to Haryana home minister Anil Vij, "confessing" she killed her police officer-husband two-and-a-half years back and saying that she wanted to be hanged for the crime, officials said on Tuesday. A post-mortem then had found nothing suspicious, the police said, adding that a case has now been registered based on the letter. Sunil Kumari, widow of late assistant superintendent of police Rohtas Singh, met the home minister on Monday at his residence when he was listing public grievances and handed him the letter Ambala superintendent of police (SP) Abhishek Jorwal said. In the letter, Kumari detailed how she killed her husband who, she claimed, was a drunkard, the official said. According to the letter, on July 15, 2017, the late ASP reached home heavily drunk and started abusing her, during which he fell down. He was about to vomit after the fall when Kumari gagged him with a piece of cloth, the SP said. The man apparently choked on food particles. He was taken to the civil hospital, where doctors declared him brought dead, he said. The woman further wrote that she never spoke a word about this to anyone. - PTI

was registered against Mr Yadav in the interwening night of December 22-23. "The SP was trans-ferred because of delay

in registration of case against Mr Yadav by the police," a BJP spokes-man said on Tuesday. The SP was made a sac-rificial goat by the state

government to placate a powerful leader of the Congress by shifting him to the police headquarters, the BJP spokesman alleged.

Sources said the local sub-divisional magis-trate had cancelled the OBC certificate of Mr Yaday a week ago following a probe into a complaint alleging that he had filed a false affidavit on his income to claim the certificate for his son. The

SP, however, sought legal opinion of the public prosecutor on the matter before ordering to register a case. This had caused delay in filing an FIR in the case, sources said.

However, a strong section of the Congress was "controlling" academic institutes. On Tuesday, unhappy over the delay, sources claimed.

Bengal gov faces protest, barred from entering JU

Calls meet with all V-Cs, education secy Jan. 13

After

remaining

stranded

for nearly

RAJIB CHOWDHURI KOLKATA, DEC. 24

West Bengal governor Jagdeep Dhankhar has one-and-a-half called a meeting with all the vice-chancellors hours in his car, (V-Cs) and state education department secretary on January 13 after he faced unprecedented protests by the Jadavpur University (JU) students and staff for the second consecutive day, this time barring him from

entering the campus to attend the convocation. After remaining stranded for nearly one-and-a-half hours in his car, the governor left the campus fuming as the convocation was held without him. He accused the Mamata Banerjee government of its role behind the agitation against him and

governor Dhankar left the campus fuming as the convocation was held without him Mr Dhankhar, also the chancellor of JU, went to the varsity to attend the

convocation after invitation. When he was about to enter the campus, angry students and staff backed by the unions affiliated to the TMC and Left blocked his convoy. Shouting slogans "Go Back Dhankhar" and "No Citizenship Amendment Act, No National Register of Citizens" they showed him black

flags like they had done on Monday when he had visited JU for a meeting. He later said at the Raj Bhavan, "I have called a meeting of all the V-Cs of the universities for a thorough interaction at Raj Bhawan at 11 am on January 13. The paraly-sis generated by the state to control the universities can be seen from the

fact I, as chancellor, have no input from the higher education department." "A policy paralysis of a critical nature can be seen from the fact that the state higher education department's principal secretary has not been able to inform either about the pro-gramme at JU or at the Calcutta University. The trend leaves no manner of doubt that the cancellations are remote controlled," Mr Dhankhar complained.

Last squadron of fighter jets to be decommissioned Dec. 27 MiG 27s set to pass into Air Force history

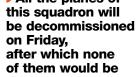
Jodhpur, Dec. 24: IAF's "lethal" fighter aircraft Mig 27, which proved to be "ace attacker" during the 1999 Kargil war and earned nickname of "Bahadur" from pilots, are all set to pass into the glorious history of country's air force on Friday when their last squadron of seven planes will have its last sortie from Jodhpur air base.

'The squadron of seven MiG 27 will have its last sortie from Jodhpur Air Base on December 27. All of this the planes squadron will be decom-



officer said the Jodhpurbased squadron of MiG 27 is the last one not only in SWAC but in the entire country.

"After decommissioning of MiG 27's last squadron from Jodhpur air base,



flying anywhere in the country

the aircraft will pass into history not only in India but in the entire world. No other country oper-ates MiG 27 now," said the officer, requesting anonymity. Col. Ghosh said though the exact fate of this MiG

27 squadron planes is not yet known, but mostly after decommissioning, the planes are either used as souvenirs or returned to the base or depot or even could be given to some other country. Jodhpur had two squadrons of MiG 27, of which one had been decommissioned earlier this year, he said.

This is the only squadron left now known as Scorpion 29 comprising seven upgraded MiG 27 at Jodhpur Air Base, he added. _ PTI





Bankruptcy Code

LS Speaker refers Bankruptcy **Code Amendment Bill to** standing committee





Good doctors should treat patients with honesty, respect and dignity. — Harsh Vardhan, Union health minister



Congress leads in C'garh civic polls AGE CORRESPONDENT BHOPAL

Ruling Congress in Chhattisgarh was heading to capture the majority of civic bodies which went to polls on December 21. Counting of votes began on Tuesday. Ten municipal corporations, 38 municipal councils and 103 nagar panchayats went to the polls to elect corporators in 2831 wards. Significantly, the elections were conducted through ballot papers which staged a comeback in the polls after 16 years in Chhattisgarh. Trend available indicated that Congress was heading towards gaining majority in majority of civic bodies which went to polls last week. Opposition BJP however appears to be giving the ruling party run for its money in three divisions.

Shah chairs meet

on J&K security AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Union home minister Amit Shah on Tuesday chaired a high-level meeting on the new Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir to discuss development matters and security situation. The meeting was attended by National Security advisor Ajit Doval, Union home secretary Ajay K Bhalla, lieutenant governor of Jammu and Kashmir G.C. Murmu and a host of other officials. "The meeting was called to review the security situation in Jammu and Kashmir," said a high ranking official.

Trainee IPS officer

accused of rape Jodhpur: Police is investigat-

2 men offer lift to Ugandan, rape her

Victim on a tourist visa, stays with her sister

As per the com-

plaint. the sus-

AGE CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI, DEC. 24

gone for dinner to Mundhva. After the din-ner, the victim was wait-

ing for a cab when the two

accused approached her

and assured her of a safe

with the motorcyclist, he

and his companion made

her sit between them.

raped her by turns.

lift.

A Ugandan woman (28) was allegedly raped by two men who offered her a

pects tried to abandon the victim at the isolated lift on their motorcycle in spot but she Pune Monday night. The victim, who is in India on a tourist visa, requested them to drop her till the main road to which stays with her sister at Kondwa and the duo had they agreed

Sensing something was amiss, the victim tracked the location of her residence on her mobile phone and realised that the duo was taking her somewhere else, the offi-

However, they took her to an isolated area and cial said. "Despite urging them to Ân official from the stop the motorcycle, they Viman Nagar police sta-tion said, "In her comtook the woman to a deserted place and raped plaint, the woman stated that when she agreed to go her." he added.

As per the complaint, the suspects tried to abandon the victim at the isolated spot but she urged

them to drop her till the main road which they agreed to, the police official said.

Even as their motorcycle approached the main road, the victim spotted a group of youngsters and raised the alarm, the official said.

"As the group started approaching the two-wheeler, its rider lost his balance, causing all three. including the victim, to fall," he said and added that the accused managed to flee in this melee.

The Pune police is try-ing to obtain CCTV footage from near the restaurant from where the woman claimed she was offered a lift.

A case has been regis-tered by the police under various sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), including 376 (rape), the official added

Railways recast gets Cabinet go-ahead AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, DEC. 24

The Union Cabinet on Tuesday approved organisational restruc-turing of the Indian Railways in which several departments and cadres will be merged and the Railway Board will be downsized.

As per decision, the Railways will now have just two departments -Railway Protection Force and Medical Service Department Department (renamed as Indian Railway Health Service) while all its other departments and existing eight Group A services will come under one Management Railway System.

Railway minister Piyush Goyal said restructuring will end departmentalism and ensure smooth. Terming the move to be transfor mational" and "historic reform", the railways ministry said this will go a long way "in achieving government's vision making Indian Railways the growth engine of India's vikas yatra.' The ministry officials said that the unification of services will end "departmentalism", promote smooth working of the Railways, expedite decision making, create a coherent vision for the organisation.

issued Certificate of Registration, granting Indian citizenship, under

Section 5(1)(c) of the Citizenship Act, 1955 on

■ Continued from Page 1

Population Register along

with the house-listing

phase of Census 2021

from April to September 2020 in all the

states/Union Territories

except Assam, according

to the website of the

office of the registrar

general, and census com-

missioner, the explanato-

A gazette notification to

this effect was issued in

The NPR will be pre-pared at the local (vil-

lage/sub-town), sub-dis-

trict, district, state and

national level under pro-

visions of the Citizenship

Citizenship (Registration

of Citizens and issue of

National Identity Cards)

It is mandatory for every "usual resident" of

India to register in the

The objective of the

NPR is to create a com-

prehensive identity data-

base of every usual resi-

dent in the country. The

database would contain

demographic as well as

biometric particulars. The government has

introduced an "app" for

NPR under which the

entire process would be

conducted without any

documentation or paper-

and the

ry note said.

Act 1955

Rules, 2003.

NPR.

August this year.

to an Indian citizen.

Monday.

document.

among

fresh

Prime Minister Narendra Modi shakes hands with economic counsellor and director of Research Department at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) Gita Gopinath during a meeting, in New Delhi on Monday.

BSY's convoy attacked in Kannur GILVESTER ASSARY action and removed the THIRUVANANTHAPRAM, protesters. But before get-

In a serious security breach, a group of activists of ruling CPM's student wing SFI attacked the convoy of Karnataka chief minister B.S.Yeddyurappa in Kannur in northern Kerala on Tuesday. The incident took place near Pazhayangadi when obout 20 odd optimize of black flags.

THE ASIAN AGE

DEC. 24

about 30-odd activists of the SFI descended on the scene taking the cops by surprise. They blocked the chief minister's car and waved black flags at him. The police swung into

BRIEF TRANSGENDER **STUDENTS TO FEEL SECURE**

Panaji, Dec. 24: In a bid to prevent transgender students from facing harassment and stigma, the Goa government has issued guidelines to make its schools "inclusive" for such students and create an environment to make them feel secure.

In a circular issued on December 15 to all government recognised elementary schools, Deputy director of education Santosh Amonkar asked all the institutions to set up an anti-discrimina-tion cell to keep a check on any prejudices against the transgender community. The schools have been

directed to give admission to all such students, and teachers are being sensitised about issues concerning transgenders, their life, cul-

of caste, religion or gender," Mr Amonkar said. — *PTI*

ting evicted, a section of activists hit the vehicles in the convoy with sticks creating panic among the

23 SFI, Youth Congress activists held, CM cuts short visit

security personnel. At around the same time, a group of Youth Congress workers held a separate protest and tried to show B.S.Yeddyurappa

protest. The police had also detained Malayali The cops arrested 23 workers of SFI and Youth Congress in connection journalists for more than with the incident. seven hours and the These outfits organised Karnataka government had suspended bus service the protest against Mr Yeddyurappa in the wake to Kerala causing inconvenience to the students. The first incident took

after

Mr

of the incidents that took place in Mangaluru recently during anti-CAA place

> RELIGIOUS EXPENSES Aurangabad, Dec. 24: Tuesday.

MAHA VILLAGE CUTS

In a novel initiative, a v i l l a g e i n Maharashtra has Expressing happiness over the initiative, she said, "The villagers have decided decided to cut down its expenses on relito upgrade the school gious activities and instead, spend the to international standards. The zilla parishad will also contribute wholemoney to upgrade a zilla parishad school. The plan is to pur-chase two acre land to heartedly. She said villagers have already upgradexpand the school campus, located in Pokhri village of ed the 'anganwadi' (government-run Aurangabad district, zilla parishad chief women and child care centre) and the com-

executive officer puter laboratory of Pavneet Kaur said on the school. — PTI SCHOOL BECOMES DEN OF

DRUNKARDS AT NIGHT Aurangabad, Dec. 24: The menace has A zilla parishad been going on for school in Maharashtra's some time, even though the school is Nanded district has located at a handbecome a hangout of shake distance from a police station in Mukramabad area of drunkards at night hours, forcing its teachers and students to begin their day by disposing of the Nanded, located around 350 km from here, he said. liquor bottles scat-The school has now tered over the place sought help of the before starting class-es, an official said. police to check the menace.

Yeddyurappa arrived at the Kannur international airport and was heading for Madayikavu for dar shan

Mr Yeddyurappa reacted strongly to the protests saying these were organ-ised. Such agitations and wrongdoings by a section of people will only bring a bad name to peaceful state

like Kerala. Despite the protests, the Karnataka chief minister completed his darshan at Rajarajeshwari Temple

Thaliparamaba. In view of the protests, the chief minister decided to cut short his Kerala visit

PM to start scheme on ground water today AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, DEC. 24

On the eve of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's birthday, the Union Cabinet on Tuesday approved the implementation of the Atal Bhujal Yojana (ATAL JAL), a Central scheme with a total outlay of ₹6,000 crore, which would be implemented over a period of 5 years (2020-21 to 2024-

25).Mr Narendra Modi will launch the scheme in Lucknow on December 25 on the occasion of Mr Vajpayee's birthday. The former prime minister had won Lok Sabha elections from Uttar Pradesh's capital city on many occasions.

The scheme aims to improve ground water management through community participa-tion in identified priority areas in seven states namely Haryana, Gujarat. Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, offi-

cial sources said. Implementation of the scheme is expected to benefit nearly 8350 gram panchayats in 78 districts in these States. ATAL JAL will promote panchayat-led ground water management and behavioural change

Pakistani woman granted citizenship in J&K that Ms Khatija has been **) The woman** received the citizenship document at the DC's office. The couple thanked

Article 35A of the National ered the J&K Legislature

Omar

Abdullah-led Conference-Constitution which has Congress coalition govsince been repealed along ernment, around 212 forwith Article 370 empow- mer militants returned to J&K front Pakistan-occu-

ture, psycho- social and emo-tional conditions. "The spirit of the Indian Constitution is to provide equal opportunity to every originate to grow and attain citizen to grow and attain their potential, irrespective

ing the complaint of a woman who has alleged that a trainee IPS officer raped her on the pretext of marriage but broke off the engagement through an SMS after he was selected for the service. The officer had left for training in Hyderabad following his selection this year. Additional deputy commissioner of police (Jodhpur West) said the woman claimed that the trainee officer had informed her about breaking the engagement through an SMS before leaving for the training. - PTI

tentious Citizenship (Amendment) Act, Pakistani woman married to a Jammu and Kashmir resident has been granted Indian citizenship by the government. beneficiary is The Khatija Parveen who was born in Pakistan but migrated to Jammu and Kashmir after her mar-

YUSUF JAMEEL

SRINAGAR, DEC. 24

At a time when many

parts of the country are

on the boil over con-

riage with Muhammad Taj, a resident of the (now) Union Territory's frontier Poonch district a few years ago. Poonch's deputy commis-

sioner Rahul Yadav said

the basis of her marriage the ministry of home affairs for She received the citizengiving its go-ahead. ship document from the

DC at the latter's office on has been denied to them, The couple expressed happiness and so far, by the government. thanked the ministry of Before J&K was stripped of its special status and home affairs for giving its go-ahead to issuing her the split up into two Union Territories on August 5, This has rekindled hope these Pakistani spouses of

hundreds of former Pakistani women married organised a series of to former militants of demonstrations Srinagar to demand that J&K. They may make a they be either sent back to plea before the authorities to grant them their native country or granted citizenship of the Indian citizenship which

to define "permanent resi dents" of the state and provide special rights and privileges to those permanent residents. Also, J&K

had its own state-subject law in force since 1927 under which only permanent residents could own land and other immovable properties in the (erstwhile) state. These Pakistani women militants had had accompanied their

husbands to the Valley in under the government's rehabilitation policy. Under this announced by the then

ied-Kashmir POK) through Nepal and other routes between 2010 and 2012.Though the government

had received as many as

1,082 applications from

such youth who had

crossed the Line of Control (LoC) apparently

to receive arms training,

the government had

approved only 219 cases

The Pakistani spouses of

the former militants claim that they are living in

"miserable conditions" in

the Valley.

after security clearance.

with primary focus on demand side management Out of the total outlay of ₹6,000 crore, 50 per

cent shall be in the form of World Bank loan, and will be repaid by the Centre.

The remaining 50 per cent shall be through Central assistance from budgetary support. The World Bank's loan component and Central assistance shall be passed on to the states as grants.

India to get defence chief

■ Continued from Page 1

will be to assign inter-services prioritisation to capital acquisition proposals of Army, Navy and Air Force based on the anticipated budget and will work to reduce wasteful expenditure. CDS will enable the armed forces to implement co-ordinated defence doctrines and procedures and to foster cohesion among the three services.

CDS will implement five-Defence Capital vear Acquisition Plan (DCAP), and two-year roll-on Annual Acquisition Plans (AAP), as a follow-up of the Integrated Capability Development Plan (ICDP).

CDS will facilitate restruc-

turing of military commands Modi had announced the creby integrating land-air-sea operations to create new theatre commands for effective military response in case of hostilities.

Andaman and Nicobar Command is the only tri-service theatre command of the Indian Armed Forces based at Port Blair.

The tri-service agencies commands related to cyber and space will be under the CDS.

The CDS will be a member of the Defence Acquisition Council chaired by the defence minister and the Defence Planning Committee chaired by the National Security Adviser (NSA). Prime Minister Narendra

ation of the post of Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) in his Independence speech at the Red Fort. The creation of CDS is seen as the major militarily reform which comes nearly two decades after the Kargil Review Committee (KRČ) recommended it.

The CDS will focus on bringing synergy between the Army, Air Force and the Navy in operation, logistics, transport, training, support services, communications, repairs and maintenance within three years of assuming office. He will ensure optimal utilisation of infrastructure and rationalise it through jointness among the services

CBI books Maruti's former MD

■ Continued from Page 1

in a statement issued on Tuesday. "I had invested my life savings in the company. I understand the bank is following a process. I have always made myself available and will continue to fully cooperate with all the agencies. We were cleared in the forensic audit on each count. I have no doubt we will be vindicated again once the investigation is completed", he added

The CBI has alleged that Mr Khattar and his company dishonestly and fraudulently sold the goods hypothecated to the bank without its permission and diverted the funds, thereby causing criminal breach of trust and cheating that caused wrongful loss to the bank and gain to him and his company.

The bank had conducted a forensic audit which showed that fixed assets to the tune of Rs 66.92 crore were sold for a

consideration amount of Rs 4.55 crore without its approval, the investigating agency said.

It is also alleged that sale proceeds were not deposited with the bank and Mr Khattar had dishonestly and fraudulently extended loans and advances to its sister concern/subsidiaries as well.

"Thereby it has committed misappropriation of bank funds and has put them for own use," the FIR said.



work. However, its usage is not mandatory, Mr Javadekar said. Describing the census

exercise, the note said that the decennial census is the single largest source of a variety of statistical information on different characteristics of the people of India conducted on the basis of the Census Act enacted in 1948.

Census 2021 will be done in two phases. In the first phase, the work of houselisting or housing census will be conducted from April to September, 2020. In the second phase, the enumeration of popula-tion will be done from February 9 to February 28, 2021, with reference moment as 00:00 hours of March 1. 2021.

For snow-bound areas in Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, the reference date will be October 1.2020.

The census is the basis for reviewing the country's progress in the past decade, monitoring the ongoing schemes of the government and plan for the future. The census provides detailed and authentic information on demography, economic activity, literacy and education.

'IAS aspirant killed in police firing'

policy

Continued from Page 1

injured. This is the first time that the state police accepted that they opened fire during the protests in the state. Uttar Pradesh's director general of police O.P. Singh had so far maintained that no one was killed in police firing and blamed the deaths mostly on "cross-firing". At least 17 people have been reported killed in anti-CAA protests in Uttar Pradesh.

On Sunday, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra had visited Suleiman's family in Bijnor.

Suleiman's mother "told me with tear-filled eyes" that her son has been "martyred" for the country, according to the Congress leader.

The family of the youth said he had been preparing for the civil services entrance exam and claimed he had nothing to do with the protests.

Another man, Anis, died in firing from the mob in the district, the SP said.

Priyanka, Rahul stopped

■ Continued from Page 1 were stopped by the police on the outskirts.

'We asked the police to order for stopping us and told us to return," Mr Gandhi told reporters after being stopped at Partapur police station. Later, senior state Congress leaders Imran Masood and Pankaj Malik met the victims' families. A Congress spokesperson said that the Gandhis will again try to meet the families on Wednesday. The police action came Bijnor.

after a four-member Trinamul Congress delegation, scheduled to meet the grieving families of show us the order, but those killed in UP during they did not show any protests, was also protests, was also detained at Lucknow airport on Sunday afternoon.

Out of the 17 people reported to have died in Uttar Pradesh during protests against the new citizenship law, at least five died in Meerut. Priyanka Gandhi Vadra had on Sunday met the families of some of the protesters who died in alleged police firing in

IMF calls for action

■ Continued from Page 1 and disclosure of information on public enterprises, especially at the state level, in order to better anticipate possible cases of financial distress and minimise their costs for taxpayers," the IMF said.

It noted that much of the discussion regarding fiscal policies in India focuses on its central and states' government deficits. A broader and more relevant measure of the government's fiscal

IMF estimates. "This estimate incorpo rates some information on central government expenditures, which are financed off-budget through other mecha-nisms, but is missing information on activities of public enterprises and lower tiers of

ment," it said. — *PTI/AFP*

position - and its bear

ing on the economy - is

the public sectors borrow-

ing requirement, which

has risen to about 8.5 per

cent of GDP, according to











History Protesting German student reminder of dark chapter in world history, says Chidambaram.





The (CAA) move has been initiated to divert attention of people from core issues. — Akhilesh Yadav,

SP leader



Cops identify Azam

associate as vandal

Rampur (UP): A close associate of Samajwadi Party leader Azam Khan is among the over 150 people identified by the police for vandalism here last week during the violent anti-citizenship law protests that claimed a civilian's life, police said on Tuesday. The police have assessed the total damage to property to the tune of ₹15 lakh so far which would be compensated by those involved in its destruction, a senior official said. The process is underway to attach the properties of those identified so far, he said. "More than 150 people have been identified so far. Parvez, a driver and close associate of Mr Khan, is also seen in pictures and video footages hurling stones at the police personnel," Rampur SP Ajay Pal Sharma said. - PTI.

Min: No talks with

anti-CAA activists

Thiruvananthapuram: Union minister of state for external affairs & parliamentary affairs V. Muraleedharan on Tuesday ruled out talks with those agitating against Citizens Amendment Act (CAA). The minister told mediapersons in Kozhikode in north Kerala that people have the right to protest but not to indulge in violence. The government had no plans to hold any talks with those who are organising agitations. He said the gov-ernment will contact the people directly to explain its position no CAA and NRC and that there was a deliberate attempt from certain sections to misguide people on these issues.

Pro-CAA rally held in Surat Ahmedabad: Seeking to counter protests against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act in various parts of the country, Gujarat BJP leaders and government functionar ies are taking part in rallies in support of the new law across all 33 districts of the state on Tuesday. The rallies and demonstrations law are being organised by 'Nagrik Samitis' having support of the RSS. In Surat, Gujarat forest minister Ganpat Vasava and a large number of residents took part in a demonstration. – PTI

Cops state in writing that situation in Meerut tense, request Cong leader, Priyanka to drop by in few days Rahul stopped from meeting victim's kin

THE ASIAN AGE

Meerut (UP), Dec. 24: Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra were on Tuesday stopped by the police from entering Meerut on their way to meet the families of those who died during protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act.

The two had requested that they, along with another Congress leader Pramod Tiwari, be allowed to meet the families, but were denied entry, Congress sources said in Delhi. The Gandhis were sto-

pped near Partapur Police Station. "We asked the police to show us order, but they did not show any order for stop-ping us and told us to return," Mr Gandhi told reporters.

According to a police statement, Mr Gandhi and Ms Vadra were served a notice which said section 144 of the CrPC has been imposed and the situation in Meerut was sensitive.

"They were told that they will be held responsible for any deterioration of law and order situation in the district due to their visit," the statement said. Both were conveyed

that the police will have no objection if they wanted to visit the dis-trict peacefully. They both went back on their own, it added.

In Delhi, Congress leader and former Rajya Sabha member Parliament Pramod Tiwari said the police gave them in writing that the situation in Meerut was very sensitive and tense and thus, did not want us to visit

the area. The police conveyed that Mr Gandhi and Ms Vadra could meet the victim families in the next few days once the situation normalises, Mr Tiwari said.

Mr Tiwari, who accompanied, the Gandhis, said when Ms Vadra visited Bijnore on Sunday there was no tension and neither any political activity, and instead the area was peaceful.

Mr Tiwari wondered what the police was tryhis second semester with ing to hide by not not the Physics department at IIT-M and still has one allowing them to meet the families. more semester to be com-The Congress leader pleted under his Exchaalso alleged that the BJP nge does not want peace and is bound to create trouble and tension between Germany. communities in Uttar Pradesh, as well as elsewhere. "We were stopped and were told to visit three days later. Our intention was peaceful and we did not want to aggravate government over the the situation. We expect AA, some of them even that the police will fulfil likening the situation to their promise of helping what prevailed under Adolf Hitler's Nazi regus meet the aggrieved families in Meerut in ime. Another poster screthe next few days," he amed, 'Uniformed criminals = criminals', obvitold reporters. At least five protesters ously referring to the police action against the JNU students. died in Meerut alone



Police personnel keep a vigil as members of various organisations stage a protest march from Mandi House to Jantar Mantar against the Citizenship Amendment Act at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi on Tuesday.

German student sent back for protesting CAA

ARUL PALANI CHENNAI, DEC. 24

A German student at the IIT-Madras is on his way back home after the immigration department here told him to leave following his participation in multiple protests here against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA)

over the last one week. Jakob Lindenthal, 24, was summoned by the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO) on Monday to be told to leave Constitution. "I am from the country as he had vio-Germany and I am aware of what happens when this form of discriminalated his student visa conditions by participating in political rallies in the host country. Sources at IIT said Mr Lindenthal has completed

tion is taken too far", a popular news site quoted him saying. And on his subsequent exit order, his retort was that nobody "is ever evicted from Germany for participating in a legal demonstration

said

Mr

Learn from Jharkhand debacle, says Didi Mamata to Modi & Shah: Shun arrogance, audacity

KOLKATA, DEC. 24

Upping her ante against the BJP a day after its ouster from power in Jharkhand, Trinamul Congress supremo Mamata Banerjee has advised Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union home minister Amit Shah to "shun arrogance and audacity" after getting "befitting replies" from the people for their dis-sent over the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and National Register of Citizens (NRC).

In a blistering attack on Mr Modi and Mr Shah over what she reiterated as their contradictory statements on the imple mentation of the CAA and NRC, the West Bengal chief minister also asked them to find out who actu-

BJP leader warns actors of I-T raids

GILVESTER ASSARY THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, **DEC. 24**

A BJP leader has warned of Enforcement Directorate and income-tax raids against Malayalam film actors who took part in the long march against the Citizenship Amend-ment Act (CAA) in Kochi on Monday.

In a Facebook post BJP leader Sandeep G. Varier, who is popular face on prime time TV channel debates, said that actors, especially female ones, who participated in the march should ensure that they have paid their taxes. In case there are I-T raids for tax evasion tomorrow, the actors should not say that they were being targeted and hounded for taking part in the anti-CAA march, he said.

march, saying that the "ganja team" that accom-panied the actors in the protest would not stand up for them when I-T and D raids are carried out. Interestingly, the controversial Facebook post disappeared from Varier's wall later in the day. Meanwhile, former Mizoram governor and senior BJP leader Kumanam Rajashekharan slammed the actors and film per-

Mr Varier also mocked

those who took part in the

sonalities who took part in the march. "They are not patriots. In whose interests are they staging these protests," he asked. Reacting to the critiism director Kamal said, Even in the past they have been threatening to send us to Pakistan and the moon. We will not be cowed down.'

Renowned personalities call for end to agitation

MANOJ ANAND GUWAHATI, DEC. 24

In what is said to be a conspiracy of the gov-ernment to defuse the AASU-led anti-CAA agitation, 16 leading per-sonalities of Assam have opposed the idea of prolonging the agitation while reminding people how the series of protests that have taken place in the past 40 years have severely damaged the state's socio-economic fabric.

The joint appeal – published in Assam's local nor of Meghalaya Ranjit Shekhar Mooshahary, educationist Dr Nirmal Kumar Choudhury, senior journalist Dhirendra Nath Chakravartty, for-mer president of the Assam Sahitya Sabha Kanak Sen Deka, former senior bureaucrat Binanda Kumar Gogoi, artiste Jatin Goswami former director general of the National Museum Dr Rabin Dev Choudhury, writer Ratneswar Basumatary, actor Pranjal Saikia, filmmaker Manju Bora, dramatist Abinash Sarma, actresses Manjula Barua and Purnima Pathak Saikia, educationist Bhabani Prasad Adhikary and writers Dr Jaykanta Sarma and Dr Gyanendra Barman. The signatories have highlighted the damage caused over the past few days during protests against the CAA. They have said that as the CAA is now sub-judice, the reason behind the announcement for a movement is "mysterious". They have stressed that the rise of a "third force" in the ongoing protests is posing a challenge to the people.

members of Hindu, Sikh

Buddhist, Jain, Parsi and

Christian communities

who have come from

Pakistan, Bangladesh and

Afghanistan till December

31, 2014 and facing reli-

gious persecution will be

granted Indian citizenship

after staying in the coun-

Protests against the CAA

demanding revoking of

the law have rocked the

country, including in West

Bengal, in the past few

alliance's victory in the

Jharkhand polls, Soren

said it was a win for

democracy and against

the "divisive policies" that

the BJP had implemented

Results have shown that

local issues in states are

about

his

-PT

try for five years.

days. Asked

in the state.

RAJIB CHOWDHURI



Jakob Lindenthal was quoted by the media as saying that the CAA was "a clear form of dis-crimination" going aga-inst the secular Indian

CONCERNED **OVER SITUATION IN NATION: SAIF**

Mumbai: Reacting to the ongoing nationwide protests against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), actor Saif Ali Khan said as a citizen he is concerned about the current situation in the country. The 49-year-old star is one of the few big names from Bollywood to react on the unrest due to the protests against the legislation. "There are many things that give us a cause for concern, watching and wondering how where it will all end up," Saif said on the political scenario in the country.

Several Bollywood celebrities such as Farhan Akhtar, Parineeti Chopra, Richa Chadha, Mohd Zeeshan Ayyub, Anu-

rag Kashyap, Shabana Azmi, Javed Akhtar, Hrithik Roshan and Swara Bhasker among others have voiced their disappointment over the CAA. The silence of the A-listers from the film industry is being questioned on social media but the star said everybody has a right to express their opinion or not. "It is everybody's right to protest peacefully and everybody's right not to," the actor said. Saif said he trying to understand the situation better and will make up his mind after he is well-informed. - PTI last week during the protests.

registering

PATNA, DEC. 24

Jharkhand'

earliest".

Ranchi's

strength of cabinet he said that "discussions

with all alliance partners

are going on and we hope

to finalise the issue at the

ground on December 29.

After

Sources Programme that Lindenthal was told by brought him here from his student coordinator that he was wanted at the home at Dresden in FRRO office and when he He was spotted at severwent there, he was asked al anti-CAA protests in by the officials what his views on CAA were. To Chennai over the last one week and the media this, Mr Lindenthal showed him holding posters with stinging slogans critical of the BJP

reportedly revealed his strong opposition. He was told to wait outside and after sometime, was informed of the decision to send him back to Germany. Mr Lindenthal offered to give a letter apologising but that was rejected, sources said, adding that the German consulate in the city offered legal assistance but he chose to return Also, Mr Lindenthal home.

Hemant Soren set to take oath as CM on Dec. 29 NAYEAR AZAD

Voters rejected 10 turncoats

Ranchi, Dec. 24: As many а resounding victory in Jharkhand polls, JMM working President as 10 turncoats, including Pradesh two former Congress Committee pres-Hemant Soren along with idents and an ex-BJP chief alliance partners met govwhip, bit the dust in the ernor Draupadi Murmu Jharkhand Assembly poll. and staked claim to form All the candidates had the next government in Jharkhand. switched sides after being denied tickets to the Talking to reporters elections.

after meeting the gover-nor Mr. Soren said, "I have Former BJP spokesperson Praveen Prabhakar, staked claim along with 50 who joined the National MLAs and have requested People's Party days before the governor to allow us to the commencement of the form the government in five-phase Assembly elections in the state secured When asked about the

will be visiting New Delhi on Wednesday where he is likely to meet AICC Chief Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi before taking oath chief minister of Jharkhand.

JMM working president He is also expected to meet RJD Chief Lalu Hemant Soren will take oath as Chief Minister in Yadav who is serving jail Morabadi term in connection with JMM insiders told this fodder scam cases and newspaper that Mr. Soren currently being treated

least votes in Nala seat at 987. Ex-BJP chief whip Radhakrishna Kishore, who joined the AJSU Party after being denied a ticket, lost to BJP candidate Puspa Devi in Chattarpur constituency. Kishore had quit the Congress to join the Janata Dal (United) before embracing the BJP.

Former Jharkhand PCC Chief Pradeep Kumar Balmachu lost from Ghatsila after contesting the seat on an AJSU Party ticket. -PT

for various serious ailments at Institute of Rajendra Medical Sciences (RIMS) Ranchi. The three-party alliance comprising of JMM, Congress and RJD has won 47 of the 81 seats in the state. The JMM with 30 seats is the single largest party, while the Congress won 16 and RJD one seat.

ally spoke the truth after leading a protest march against the CAA and NRC in north Kolkata on Tuesday.

'The Union home minister says in Parliament that the National Register of Citizens and CAA would be enforced across the country. But the PM claims: We have not said this. We say, each and every word we stated is in public domain from the Parliament to the streets. Whatever you have stated is in the public domain also. Please find out who said what," Ms Banerjee told the Prime Minister and BJP president.

She added, "People have started giving befitting replies. You have got a befitting reply in Maharashtra. You got in Jharkhand yesterday also. At Jharkhand, the BJP has been jolted severely Khondo BJP (Jhar Hoyechhe Londo Bhondo). Such a jolt came back to back. If the chandelier of

TMC chief and West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee plays a musical instrument while leading a protest rally against the CAA and NRC in Kolkata on Tuesday.

other lights become dim. Only the chandelier will be seen.'

She cautioned them, 'BJP babus, be careful. Do not use strength always. People do not need to be careful because they are fighting a battle peacefully. Shun arrogance and audacity.' Mocking the Prime

Minister yet again over his comment on identifying who was behind the protests by their "dress".

the Trinamul chief asked, 'What has happened suddenly that dress has become a yardstick for identity? Can't language and face be enough to identify someone?

Referring to the BJP by criminal sections of the Indian Penal Code, she added, "There is no one democracy is lit up, all else as dangerous and sec-

tions 420 and 144 like them." Countering BJP working president J.P. Nadda's complaint that there was no law and order in West Bengal, the chief minister wondered about the existence of the rule of law in Uttar Pradesh and other BJP ruled states where, she claimed, violent protesters were gunned down by the police.

She argued that while the BJP leaders were allowed to hold rallies in the state, a Trinamul delegation was, however, stopped from visiting violence-hit Uttar Pradesh recently. "Yesterday, BJP leaders came and toured the city in cars. No one stopped them. Where does the rule of law exist then?" Ms Banerjee Msasked.

'No Jharkhandi must be uprooted'

New Delhi, Dec. 24: JMM working president Hemant Soren, who is set to be the chief minister of Jharkhand, on Tuesday said he will go through the details of the citizenship law and if even one person from his state is uprooted due to the amended legislation, then it will not be

implemented. Mr Soren, who led the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha-Congress-RJD alliance to a win in the assembly polls, also said that he had not gone through the details of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and the possible NRC and he would make a "holistic review" of them.

"I have not gone through the NRC and CAB (now CAA) documents that the India government of wants to implement. Citizens are on the roads



against these laws. We will go through it and if it uproots one even Jharkhandi from his or her home, then it won't be implemented,"44-year-old Soren said in an interview. "The NPR has been done

today. We will do a holistic review of the entire Act and the policy at the state level and I need to be convinced that not a single Jharkhandi is uprooted from his or her home due

The NPR has been done today. We will do a holistic review of the entire Act and the policy at the state level.

> — Hemant Soren, JMM working president

to this law," he said when asked about his take on the CAA and NRC with many states ruled by Opposition parties asserting that they will not implement the controversial citizenship law. His remarks came hours

after the Union Cabinet approved over ₹3,941.35 crore for updating the Population National Register

the topmost priority of the According to the CAA, people.





MIND | POWER

BILLY GRAHAM ROSA LUXEMBURG

Evangelism is when the Gospel, which is good | Those who do not move news, is preached or presented to all people do not notice their chains

THE ASIAN AGE

25 DECEMBER 2019

Look out, BJP, change is in the air

even months ago, anyone from Jharkhand would have told you that though incumbent chief minister Raghubar Das was deeply unpopular, he voters were going to go with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who hus collected 12 of the 14 Lok Sabha seats. That done, the voter turned to matters on hand in the recent Assembly election and taught Das a lesson that he and his party will not soon forget. Of the 28 Assembly seats allocated to scheduled tribes, the Jharkhand Mukti

Morcha (JMM), in alliance with the Congress and the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), won 20 seats on its way to dethroning Das and assuming power. The tribal voter's dislike for Das began the moment Das' announcement of 14 per cent reservation in jobs for Other Backward Castes. But worse was the dilu-tion of the state's tenancy act and of the Land Acquisition Act in 2018. And as reported in this newspaper, the Pathalgadi movement emerged as a reaction to Das, for safeguarding tribal rights. Voters were determined to get a government that recognised tribal rights and that would snatch their land from them - land that would go to industry, whose ultimate benefit would anyway by non-tribals. The JMM benefited from this tribal sentiment and unsurprisingly emerged the single largest party after the election. The Congress did well to ride piggyback on the JMM, winning seats that it hadn't since

Which way the political wind has begun to blow was clear when a hitherto obliging CM like Andhra Pradesh's Jagan Mohan Reddy said while counting

1980. Its election manifesto was strong on local promises, unlike the BJP's. And despite the BJP's win in urban seats like Ranchi, Dhanbad, and Hazaribagh, for instance, the Congress won seats that had a Muslim voting population despite visits by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath to East Singbhum and Giridih. Both the UP CM's was still on that he would not implement bizarre requests that each family donate ₹11 and one brick for the proposed Ram temple in Ayodhya, and home minister Amit Shah's the NRC. More may promise that a Ram Temple "touching the soon jump the boat. skies" would be built in four months yielded no electoral dividend. It proved that the Ram temple is a non-issue for the ordinary Indian

in these extraordinarily mismanaged economic times. Most telling, however, was the PM's campaign speeches regarding the protests against the National Register of Citizens (NRC) and the Citizenship Amendment Act. He deployed his polarising polemic during his blitzkrieg during the Assembly election's last two phases, speaking of identifying the protesters "by their clothes". Either the voter did not care, or she felt the PM had gone too far — after all, most tribal voters are not Hindus. Modi may now brood over causes of the stinging Jharkhand defeat. But which way the political wind has begun to blow was clear when a hitherto obliging CM like Andhra Pradesh's Jagan Mohan Reddy said while counting was still on that he would not implement the NRC. More may soon jump the boat. In the meanwhile, we wish the new Jharkhand CM, Hemant Soren, all the best in bringing his state back on course. And now, over to Delhi's Assembly election, up next.

Curious US divergence

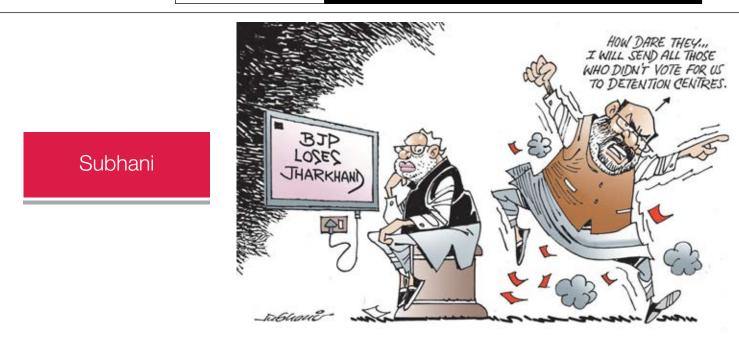
Tn a trial that was not open, and in which the accused were not even named, a Saudi court sentenced five persons to death on Monday and sent three to prison in the case of the cold-blooded murder of the dissident journalist, Jamal Khashoggi, last year. Incredibly, the White House sees this as an "important" development that upholds the principle of "accountability".

President Donald Trump's response is all the more surprising since the CIA had held that the murder committed by those in the security apparatus was pre-meditated and is likely to have been ordered by crown prince Mohammed bin Salman, the most powerful man in Saudi Arabia. The trial has exonerated two top intelligence officials, one of whom is a key aide to Prince Mohammed.

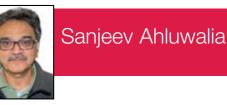
A UN expert who has followed the case as well as human rights bodies have called the trial a "sham" while letting the culprits at the top get away. From what's been reported of the available evidence, this seems a fair assessment.

If the US President has departed from this mainline view of the murder





Stoke 'animal spirits' to let India breathe again



he debacle in Jharkhand for the BJP will hopefully resonate more loudly in Nagpur, the RSS' headquarters, than did the labored breathing of the economy over the past six quarters. After all, politics is the life blood of India. And political dominance follows economic growth and well-being. This was the message of develop-ment and jobs for all, which galvanised India in 2014 to vote for Narendra Modi as Prime Ministor

Minister. Sadly, the hubris of being in office for a sec-ond term has diverted the government's attention to its unfinished political agenda, which seeks to raise allegiance to Hinduism to the same level as allegiance to the Constitution of India somewhat of an impossibility, given that the tenor of the Constitution even "secular' at word inserted in the Preamble 1976 by Indira in Gandhi's government is taken out. Prime Minister Modi needs to take things in hand before the rot sets in deeper. Reigniting Hindu religious pride is far less important that keeping the hearth lit and supplied with food and essentials in 240 million Indian homes. This is beyond rhetoric. The economic downturn has cannibalised the participation of women in the workforce -- down to 26 per cent from 37 per cent in FY 2005. This hits at the meagre incomes of the bottom 40 per cent of households, where women have retreated into adding to the supply of surplus unpaid workers at home. The Modi government started as a messiah for the jobless and the poor but got lost along the more likely, the slump in way in the multiple and often conflicting objec-GST revenues reflects

tives it set for itself. First, we have forgotten what we are -- a lower, middle income country with a per capi-ta income lower than Southeast Asia and Sri Lanka in South Asia. Even this is nothing more than a statistical mirage, given that in 2016, nine per cent of Indians were either poor (with incomes below \$1.9 PPP per day) and an additional 19 per cent were vulnerable to lapse into poverty due to any of the multiple shocks income (fewer days of work available), price (inflation) or emergen-cies (accidents, sickness or death) that the poor are exposed to. We are not a country which can sacrifice economic growth for any reason.

Second, even thought the popular narrative spun by big business is of unskilled workers constraining the economy, the real shortage is nat of id obs — which pay least as well, for skilled work, as is available in any of the countries to which skilled Indians migrate for work. Third, the reason why more attractive jobs are not available is because industry - particularly medium and small industry — is not competitive. The revenue model of many such industries has collapsed with the shift to GST, which makes it crucially important to be part of the input tax chain. There are reports that even here a "fake" challan industry has crept in which can make available a tax input challan without supplying any material for a fee. The proceeds input tax not paid is then available to the "buyer" to boost the bottom line. This might be an additional reason for the loss of buoyancy in GST revenues. But

the real rate of growth

being even lower than the four per cent expect-ed in the third quarter of this fiscal.

Fourth, the Indian-origin chief economist of the IMF, Gita Gopinath, on her recent visit to India, stuck to her insti-tutional script, by flagging labour reforms as one of the pending reforms which could revive growth. What was left unsaid, however, was the need to amelionise, rate the potential pain that this would cause. Genuine labour reform would involve raising the effective labour cost as the existing labour environmental, safety standards and adherence to social protection laws are widely flouted. Also, two-thirds of formal industrial employment is in the public sector. Any change in the embedded entitlements would evoke a massive negative response from the government's own 'privileged" employees, which an embattled government is ill prepared

Fifth, suffice it to say that the "reform and grow" option is now unlikely to be available to this government. Slowing growth and the growing civil strife stoked by the government's political agenda has unwittingly stiffened the back of the bedraggled Opposition parties who, scenting an opportunity, will increasingly band together to stymie the BJP's efforts to regain the upper hand. This implies that any version of "big bang" reform, so dear to the investing public and stockmarkets, is now unlikely. What remains is to revert to the hard slog of incremental reforms in areas of the greatest potential efficiency gains. While identifying

where reform opportuni-ties exist, it will be important to remember that the financial sector, because of its systemic impacts, is not a candidate for allowing inefficiency to persist. The woes of the finan-

cial sector emanate from sick industries which are unable to pay their debt. It would be best to roll out a non-judicial version of the 4R (recogrestructure. resolve, reform) approach.

The government needs to start this massive corporate and business reform effort by accepting and insuring the concerned officials against the risk of failure, along the lines of what has been done to resolve the mountain of debt with the ILFS — dynamic private leadership shepherded by trusted government nominees to the new board of the compa-

Finance minister Sitharaman Nirmala was possibly misunderstood when she stated recently that the debt of the medium and small companies would not be subjected to the same NPA regime as for large industry. This should not become a carte blanche for irresponsible lending under the guise of development. Nor should this become a cover for unsuccessful or wayward founders to evergreen their out-standing debt or get

LETTERS WRITING ON THE WALL

+ **≻ c m** y k

The results of the Jharkand Assembly elections sending the BJP packing confirms the fact that people cannot be fooled forever. Moreover, people were disappointed with the Raghubar Das government for ignoring their basic needs - health, education and jobs. The lynchings, dilution of tenancy and land acquisition laws making it easier to acquire adivasi land, lathicharge on more than 70,000 para teachers demanding regularisation of their service in 2018, and bad treatment meted out to more than 25,000 Anganwadi workers demanding wage raise, did not go down well with the masses.

Tharcius S. Fernando Chennai

SANITY FROM NAIDU

VICE-PRESIDENT, THE Venkaiah Naidu, has stated that "dissent" is the essence of democracy and appealed to the people not to be destructive. Very well said, Mr Vice-President. The sane advice comes at a time when rulers take it otherwise whenever there is righteous dissent. But even if disagreement takes a violent form, the government should take it with equanimity For it wil provide an opportunity to it to course-correct. Democracy does not flourish if there is no dissent. V.S. Jayaraman

most important ally in the Arab world and the US would like to get on with

Keeping on the same side as Saudi Arabia may be deemed important since the present US administration maintains a stance of implacable hostility toward Iran, which Riyadh regards as its worst enemy with which conciliation is neither possible nor desirable. It is probable that other Western governments will take their cue from Washington. Moscow, Beijing and New Delhi have already gone out of their way to embrace Prince Salman personally. He is the one they will be dealing with in the long term.

Saudi Arabia is a police state. Its social mores too are not those of democratic life. The sentencing in the Khashoggi case is probably the farthest it can go even under pressure to appease the Western conscience.

THE ASIAN AGE

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The finance minister stated that the debt of medium and small companies would not be subjected to the same NPA regime as for large industry. This should not become a carte blanche for irresponsible lending.

fresh loans. There are around 5,000 medium enterprises and around 300,000 small Employenterprises. ment, including in the 6.3 million micro-enterprises, is 110 million. Stimulating those enti-ties which have the chutzpah to compete and the necessary skill sets, with tech investment incentives, makes sense. accommodative. An discretionary approach coupled with the dual intents of "not throwing good money after bad and "not throwing the baby out with the bath water" must be strictly enforced to preserve productive employment and

The writer is adviser,

Observer Research Foundation

Chennai

POISONING LIFE

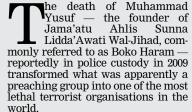
THIS IS WITH reference to the report, "Avian botulism" (December 22). It is absolutely perturbing to reckon that a huge flock of migratory birds lost their lives. This unforeseen incident can result in dreadful repercussions such as ecological imbalance or a distorted food chain. It also follows that the Sambhar Salt Lake region has undergone some bizarre changes which make it unsuitable for sustenance of life. It is self-evident that this mayhem is caused by human annexation of the biosphere. The Rajasthan government must devise some stringent measures to correct the situation. Maanind Mishra Ujjain

Every Monday the best letter of the week wins ₹500. Email:

letters@asianage.com Else, send to Jawaharlal Nehru National Youth Centre, 219 Deen Dayal Upadhyay Marg, New Delhi 110002



Nigeria's 'Taliban' not so different from Pakistan's



Boko Haram (meaning 'Western education is forbidden') was established in 2002 as an offshoot of the Salafi movement in the Yobe state of Nigeria. Between 2002 and 2008, the group largely remained dormant but after the death of Yusuf, the outfit morphed into a threatening force comprising between 4,000 and 6,000 militants.

Nigeria's population is largely trib-al and comprises about 350 ethnic groups speaking 520 languages. The country is divided into 36 states out of which 12 are dominated by Muslims and are mostly situated in the northern part of the country. Just as Al Qaeda helped the Taliban

become the brute force that they

+

were, the establishment of linkages with Al Qaeda in 2010 helped the Boko Haram become proficient in making IEDs, training militants and managing the supply of weapons and funds. In fact, the modus operandi of the group bears quite a few striking similarities to the way the Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan operated in tribal areas here. The resemblance of their respective flags also reveals a deeper ideological connection.

Like the TTP, besides foreign funding, kidnapping for ransom and extortion became the chief sources of operational expenses for the Boko Haram. Similarly, power politics and monetary gains also divided it into several factions over the years. In 2011, a new group, the Yusufiya Islamic Movement, surfaced, expressing concern over the deaths of civilians and calling for reconciliation with the government. Then in 2012 another group of dissidents, Jama'atu Ansaril Muslimina fi Biladis Sudan ('Vanguard for the Protection of Muslims in Black Africa'), commonly called Ansaru,

parted ways on the plea that killing locals and the strict implementation of Islamic law would reduce the regional appeal of the Boko Haram. Hence, the Ansaru came to focus more on attacks against foreigners. It became an independent organisation in 2012 and its first high-profile attack involved a prison break in Abuja in 2012 followed by the kidnapping of a French engineer. The group has largely been dormant since 2015. At present, the Boko Haram is divided into two operational factions: the Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) led by Abu Musab al-Barnawi (said to be the son of Muhammad Yusuf) and the original Jama'atu Ahlis Sunna Lidda'Awati Wal-Jihad commanded by Yusuf's deputy Abubakar Shekau

With time, the Boko Haram's tactics transitioned from hit-and-run attacks to elaborate ones involving physical control of territory in northeastern Nigeria and certain parts of Chad. Niger and Cameroon. After assuming control of Nigerian areas of Borno, Kano, Bauchi, Yobe, Kaduna and Adamawa in 2014, the group announced the establishment 'caliphate' in Mubi. а Strengthened by its allegiance to the militant Islamic State group that allowed it to gain space in sub-Saharan Africa, it increased the frequency and intensity of attacks in Nigeria and its environs.

value addition.

Just as the support of the Mehsud, Afridi, Mohmand and Wazir tribes remained significant for the TTP, the Boko Haram strengthened its ranks with assistance from the Kanuri and Hausa-Fulani tribes. Since the Kanuri tribe is not limited to Nigeria and its members also live in Chad, Niger and Cameroon, the group attracted youth from other countries.

Between 2014 and 2015, Shekau established control on two-thirds of Borno state and pledged allegiance to Abu Bakar al-Baghdadi. Sharia was enforced in occupied areas and 'emirs' were appointed in weakly governed areas of Bama, Gwoza, Damboa and Dikwa — somewhat similar to the tribal areas in Pakistan before military operations.

-

The Boko Haram used the Sambisa forest in Borno state where extremists took refuge and it kept the Chibok schoolgirls.

Again, like the TTP, it first established control in rural areas before moving towards cities. In April 2014 the abduction of 276 schoolgirls from Chibok put Boko Haram on the global map of notoriety. Incidentally, in December the same year the TTP would also unleash its savagery at Peshawar's Army Public School.

The Global Terrorism Index ranks Nigeria as the third most affected country by terrorism, while Pakistan stays at fifth position. The Nigerian counterterrorism strategy seems to exclusively focus on the threat posed by the Boko Haram, overlooking the multidimensional aspects of counterterrorism. The country could learn from efforts in Pakistan and Sri Lanka and review its counterterrorism and counterextremism strategies for a more holistic response.

By arrangement with Dawn













A candelabrum with seven branches A symbol of plenty consisting of a goat's horn used in the temple in Jerusalem overflowing with flowers, fruit, and corn

THE ASIAN AGE





When duty conflicts with allegiance **TT**7



common thread runs across three apparently different stories that were in the news recently. One of the stories is about the IAS officer Ashok Khemka, who has been transferred yet again (this is his 53rd in a span of 28 years!), writing to Haryana CM saying that pliable officers flourish. The second story relates to a call by IAS officers, former and serving, for a rethink on service rules that stop IAS officers from voicing their views in public. The third story is about the vice-president of Janata Dal (United) Prashant Kishor — a political strategist —publicly criticising his party's support to the new citizen law and offering to resign. So, what is a common thread in these stories other than the fact that they are all from the realm of politics/bureaucracy? The common thread is about the tension that exists between individuals and organisations in which they work or are affiliated to. One of the key reasons for this tension is a divergence between professional integrity of an employee and her/his organisation's conduct or practice. In such cases, maintaining one's professional integrity comes in

Young employees have a steep learning curve as they move from the classroom to the corporate world, from principles to practice. They have to get seasoned before they can figure out what is serious and what is not.

direct conflict with toeing the organisational line. This puts most professionals in a dilemma whether to stay loyal to their profession or to be loyal to their organisation that give them their monthly pay cheques. And this is true not just in politics or bureaucracy. This kind of tension exists in most private organisa-

The reality is that most organisations do resort to various tricks such as partial disclosure of information instead of full disclo-

sure, misrepresentation of facts, biased interpretation of results, incorrect risk assessments, window dressing or creative accounting and so forth. Employees who work closely with the senior management are privy to such tricks.

stay

senior

Faced with such situations, many people take a relaxed view. Some get coopted into the system, and some adjust to the reality thinking that they are just a small fish in a big pond, why bother. But there are others who get agitated and voice their concern. If their higher-ups aren't sensitive enough, the agitated employees either quit or get fired or get sidelined within an organisation for being outspoken.

Any organisation run by a good management will generally not indulge in unethical practices and will be sensitive to professional views of their employees. Still, a few points from the employee's perspective are worth noting Understand the context

fully. Sometimes management may compromise on sharing details for simplification and not necessarily for giving a distorted picture. Employees need to understand the context fully and from the management's perspective before being critical of it.

Distinguish egregious violations from minor deviations. Egregious violation is a serious thing while minor deviation is not. Even as organisations are focussed on their key clients, the management has to engage with diverse stakeholders. Especially during bad times, even a good management feels the need to do some window dressing without compro-

mising on its core values. So, minor deviations here and there are alright if it allows some space to the

management to look good Young employees need to focused. Young employees have a steep learning curve as they move from the classroom to the corporate world, from principles to practice. They shouldn't get perturbed when they see a huge divergence between the two different worlds. They have to get seasoned before they can figure out what is serious and what is not. Certainly, they shouldn't be the ones taking on the management. Further, young employees need to watch out, lest they are used as tools by their seniors to stir up things. They need to stay focussed. Don't shy away from rais-

ing red flags. Professional's dilemma is felt less by technical experts and more by those in managerial roles. Those who face it are the ones who are well-informed and better positioned to raise red-flags internally if they notice egregious violations. They shouldn't shy away from doing so and be prepared for the consequences which can go either way. If the consequences are negative, they will at least have a higher

self-respect. Employees do have to give up on certain freedoms. When a person becomes an employee, s/he signs to give up certain part of her or his individuality and commit herself/himself to larger organisational goals. Working or speaking publicly against your organisation while you are still it's employee will not reflect you in good light either. So, accept it.

Now, a couple of points from organisation's perspective too.

Encourage good communication and healthy dis**cussion.** A good management maintains a two-way communication with its

staff rather than a top-down communication only. Further, a good management encourages a healthy discussion across internal hierarchy. Even then, differences of opinion may remain. But at least a common understanding gets evolved through a reasoned view that everybody can see t h r o u g h . When internal discussions are frank and open, employees are able to appreciate management's decisions and able to defend those

publicly. Staff loyalty is to be earned and not bought. Organisations can buy staff time but they can't buy staff loyalty. Staff loyalty is to be earned through good policies and practices such as respectful work environment, aligning work allocations with staff interests, rewarding merit and so forth. Generally, good organisations not only have staff-friendly human resource policies but those are also implemented in earnest.

Searching for the right people is not just the pre-rogative of organisations. People too must search for the right organisations. Unfortunately, not many people experiment with organisations and jobs or with being employed or selfemployed. For some people, experimenting with jobs can be a luxury when too many qualified people are chasing too few jobs. But for most others for whom it's not a luxury, even they get comfortable with their management's conduct. Only a few of them turn out like Ashok Khemka. And you don't see too many of them these days!

The writer is a development economist, formerly with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and World Bank



Francis Gonsalves

When God came down to be counted as citizen

hristmas is here. A time of cheer. "Merry Christmas!" Greetings fill the air. Malls glitter with star lights. Santa Claus gifts goodies to kiddies. Merrymakers shop till they drop. There's food, music and gifts, galore. That's Christmas, today.

But, let's journey backward to recall details of Christ's birth. Virgin Mary — or, Miriam as recorded in the Quran — is expecting a child through the power of God's Spirit. She is betrothed to carpenter Joseph, who is forced to rush to Bethlehem, his *janmabhoo*mi, to enrol himself and his family into government records.

Today's proof-of-citizenship papers is described by gospel-writer Luke two millennia ago as: "A decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all should be registered... This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria" (2:1-2). In Jesus' times, unlike ours, only the father had to register himself. But how could Joseph leave pregnant Mary alone,

unattended in Nazareth, their hometown? So, along with him, Mary went.

Without luxury buses and bullet trains, Joseph and Mary had to travel by foot and perhaps on the back of a donkey for eighty miles from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Without any GPS, but led by God's providential steering, they probably reached their destination some seven or eight days later, only to find



Bethlehem bursting with "sons of the soil" struggling to prove their citizenship. The saddest line of the Christmas story is: "Mary gave birth to her son, wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn" (Luke 2:7). A manger is a feeding-trough or a food-stall for cattle. Thus, Jesus whom Christians believe is God's son — was laid upon the have cradleless, homeless, helpless, friendless,

As if being born far away from home is not bad enough, baby Jesus' life is threatened by an insecure and violent king, Herod, who, on hearing that a future king was born who'd be a threat to his throne, ordered all male infants to be massacred. Thus, the Holy Family — Mary, Joseph and Baby Jesus — had to flee again, to seek refuge in Egypt, 400 miles away. Lest Christ's birth be seen as some unfortunate, unwanted event, we hail the heroes and heroines: Zechariah, Elizabeth, John the Baptist, poor shepherds, wise men from the East, Simeon, Anna, and of course, Mary and Joseph, who, joyful, grateful, generous, selfless, loving and caring, welcomed God's son, Jesus, into our world.

History repeats itself: census, citizenship, refugees, insiders and outsiders. We've broken up God's wonderful world into fragments by building walls, breaking bridges. Say, if God were born in our midst today, would there be room in your "inn" for Him? Christmas blessings to the openhearted!

> Francis Gonsalves is a professor of theology. He can be contacted at fragons@gmail.com



tions, too.







THE ASIAN AGE

High on heels & his hips don't lie



■ Super-energetic and very sexy, Kian was born in Kolkata but was raised in Dubai and that is where he started to learn street jazz and contemporary dance under the able guidance of his teacher. Sharmila Kamte. Seeing his skills, the ballet school in Dubai gifted him a pair of shoes and offered him a scholarship to learn classical ballet.

nat if I told you that high heels were originally made exclusively for men? In a time when stilettos and platform are often associated with female style and female sexuality, this fact might come as a huge sur-

prise but it should not. In fact, for decades high heels found their pride of place on the feet of male soldiers, aristocrats and even royals in different parts of the globe for very specific reasons and when it comes to the surprising history of heeled shoes, that's just the tip of the iceberg. In today's modern times high heels might be more of a women's domain but there are a few men in India who are breaking this stereotype and taking it back to the classical days. One such young man is 22-year-old dancer Anubhav Dutta Gupta aka Kian Gupta.

Super-energetic and very sexy Kian was born in Kolkata but was raised in Dubai and that is where he started to learn street jazz and contemporary dance under the able guidance of his teacher, Sharmila Kamte. Seeing his skills, the ballet school in Dubai gifted him a pair of shoes and offered him a scholar-ship to learn classical ballet. It has been about five years that he has moved to India and since then he has taken the Indian dance scene by storm. I met with this one-of-akind high heel dancer and I am glad that he poured his heart out and spoke to me like no one did.

Seeing women dance in high heels is common, why did you take up

high heel dancing? (Laughs) I am very tall, you see. I stand 5'4" tall; (laughs) well, so I thought dancing in high heels would be best for me to get noticed in this sea of

the

dancing world, so I took up dancing in high heels. But you know the origin of the high heels can be traced back to 15th century Persia when male soldiers wore them to help secure their feet in stirrups, Persian migrants brought the high heel shoe trend to Europe, where male aristocrats wore them to appear taller and more formidable. So honestly, if you go to see I am actually just reviving the classical days of men wearing high heels.

How did it all start for you? My mother says it all start-

knew that her

either be a

footballer

or a dancer. But

dance fever

began when as a

schoolboy, I

participated

dance

show,

met

Woogie?

would

the

Woogie; that is where

Sharmila Kamte.

the legendary

introduced me to my teacher,

What happened after Boogie

I won the 2nd runner up position,

which was a big thing for a non-

dancer like me but. I will credit my

dancing skills to a few people, of course including my first teacher

of street jazz and modern contem-

porary dance in

Dubai, Sharmila

day

Kamte, who moulded me

and

night for

o v e r five

dancer, Javed Jaffrey, and he

son

ed off when she was pregnant with me, I My used to kick all mother says it the time and since then she all started off when she was pregnant with me, I used to kick all the time and since then she knew that her son would either be a footballer or a dancer. As a schoolboy, I participated in the in the UAE leg **UAE leg of Boogie** of the famous Woogie reality Boogie

vears. Then in 2013 I moved to India. It was then that Sudarshan Chakravorty of Sapphire Creations dance company took me under his country wing and helped me enhance my contemporary dance skills. What was special about being with Sudarshan sir was that I learnt to add Indian elements to my contem-

How did you then move from Kolkata to Mumbai?

I wanted to explore my art and felt that I needed to go to a bigger city. That is when I learnt about The Terence Lewis Contemporary dance company. to

to

my

tives

How do you feel

when you dance on high heels?

Firstly, I feel thankful

to God and to my parents for

allowing me to be myself. I

feel totally liberated when I

slip into my high heels and step onto to the dance floor. I

moved Mumbai in 2016learn under Terence. enrolled in his twoand-ahalf-year course and danced day in and day finetune overdid and pushed

myself so much that during my final presentation I injured myself badly. It took me over three months of regular physiotherapy, acupressure and acupuncture to overcome my injury. That is when I learnt that I must never push my body beyond its limits.

You have learnt so many dance forms, but then how did high heel dancing come about?

I was always attracted to high heels, plus I did not want to be a group dancer, I always dreamt of being a solo artiste. One day I got a call to perform at the Lalit Hotel, Kitty Su nights, the famous LGBTQ event hosted by Kaishav Suri and Sustant Divgikr. I simply pick up my six inches high heels and stepped onto the dance floor. A

series of shows followed post that one event; soon I was performing almost every weekend, all over the

Culture+

WEDNESDAY | 25 DECEMBER 2019 | NEW DELHI

As per you, what really is high heel dancing?

To me, high heel dancing means being sexy, erotic, stimulating and sensual. There is a lot that goes into high heel dancing, there is a particular delicate way to walk, stand, emote, strut, swing one's hips and, of course, dance. I don't dress in drag when I dance in high heels because I do not believe that heels are meant for a woman. I am a man, I dress like a man in trousers and a shirt with open buttons and I simply dance in high heels and that is my specialty. I am man on high heels. (Smiles)

How is the market for high heel dancing in India?

Why only India, all over the world people love watching dances that are sexy and I offer them just that. The performance and show market of high heel dancing is huge in India. I have been performing at clubs, private parties and many such glamourous events. Dance enthusiasts are very keen to experience high heel dancing, so I have been conducting many workshops all over the country. This year I have given over 20 workshops high heels in dancing young ģirls, boys, house wives and even corporate execu-

the earthquake through Unicef and helping out as a social worker and bringing smiles to people's faces. I relate high heels dancing to social work because high heel dancing not only entertains but also empowers people. Once a person gets into his or her high heels and starts to move sensually the sense of outstanding confidence, poise, bravura, style, sophistication and elegance that they develop and inculcate is completely unmatched and exceptional.

remember visiting Nepal during

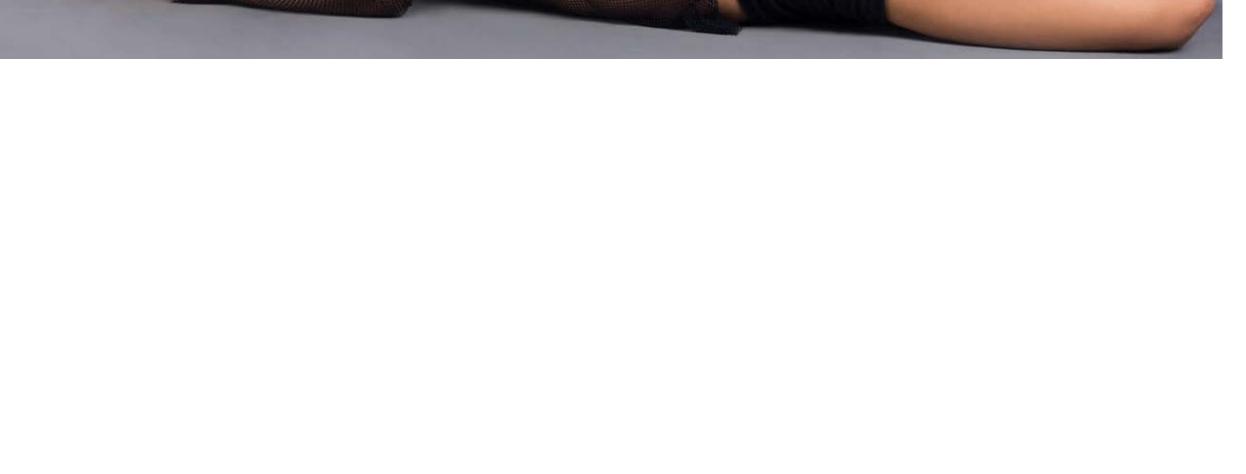
PAGE 8

I have trained the likes of Madonna, Shakira, Britney Spears and Beyonce Knowles but I can honestly say that this man, Kian, can give these international pop divas a run for their money as his hips don't lie, after slipping into those sexy six-inch heels. Kian Gupta is one artiste who has created a storm on Facebook and Instagram with his unique style of dancing on stilettos. His workshops and shows go full house each time he wears his colorful high heels. So next time you hear that Kian on his high heels is in your city, just grab a chance to see him do his "social work" of empowering people.

> Sandip Soparrkar holds a doctorate in world mythology folklore from Pacifica University USA, an honorary doctorate in performing arts from the National American University, He is a World Book Record holder, a well known Ballroom dancer and a Bollywood choreographer who has been honored with three National Excellence awards, one National Achievement Award and Dada Saheb Phalke award by the Government of India. He can be contacted on sandipsoparrkar06@ gmail.com.

porary dance.

out to further dancing skills. I



FINANCIAL **Chronicle**

WEDNESDAY | 25 DECEMBER 2019 | NEW DELHI

INDICATORS

INDIORIOI	
Sensex	41,461.26 ▼181.40
Nifty 50	12,214.55 ▼48.20
S&P 500	3,223.09 ▲0.92
Dollar (₹)	71.25
Pound Sterling (₹)	92.32
Euro (₹)	78.99
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	38,291
* As of Tuesday	

quick

RBI launches new prepaid payment option for e-buys

The Reserve Bank on Tuesday introduced a new semi-closed prepaid payment instrument (PPI) which can be used for transaction of goods and services up to a limit of ₹10,000. The loading facility of the instrument will be linked only from a bank account. This PPI will be issued by bank and nonbank PPI issuers after obtaining minimum details of the PPI holder. The minimum details will necessarily include a mobile number verified with OTP and a self-declaration of name and unique identity, etc.

Bharti Infratel, Indus merger put off to Feb. 24



Bharti Infratel on Tuesday said it has extended the deadline for merger with mobile tower company Indus Towers by two more Fohruary has not received the necessary government approvals so far. The Board of Directors has further extended the long stop date till February 24, 2020, subject to agreement on clos-ing adjustments," Bharti Infratel said in a BSE filing.

₹60,000 crore in the current financial year, a committee of officers has moved a proposal that includes suggestions from various stakeholders to boost revenue. The suggestions include curtailing exemption list items and raising taxes on some of items. The committee of offi-

New Delhi, Dec. 24: With

expected GST compensa-tion cess shortfall of over

cers from the Centre and states, formed to review the goods and services tax (GST), received various per cent for items such as mobile phones. The panel recommendations from stakeholders. Among various suggesis of the view that the GST tion received from stake-Council should revisit

holders included selective rates on certain items that came down to 18 per cent taxation on education and health, sources said. from 28 per cent. The committee, which made a presentation before the GST Council on As of now, there are four slabs under the GST regime — 5, 12, 18 and 28 percent. Goods and servic-18 December, also contained recommendation es under the 28 per cent pruning of exempt list for

category also attract cess over and above the rate, raising resources. Meat, fish, eggs, honey, milk which ranges between 1 products, vegetables, fruand 25 per cent. its and dry fruits are some Suggestions were also received on procedural

of the items that come side, input tax credit, and widening tax deduction at under the exempt list. Besides, the sources said

MIDCOURSE CORRECTION

IN VIEW OF a ₹60,000-crore shortfall in GST compensation cess revenue in the current financial year, a committee of officers has suggested a number of steps to augment revenue including curtailing exemption list items and raising taxes on some of items.

THE PANEL is of the view that the GST Council should revisit rates on certain items that came down to 18% from 28%

the committee has sugsource (TDS). A number of gested moving items from suggestions, such as related to the invoice, are 5 per cent to 12 per cent and from 12 per cent to 18 under implementation, the sources said.

the GST However, Council in the meeting last week decided to study the report of the committee before taking any view. Probably, the next GST Council will have a comprehensive discussion over the report.

According to a presentation made to the GST Council by the panel, the compensation requirement for states is expected to be about ₹1.6 lakh crore for the current financial year, at a growth rate of 5 per cent. At this rate, the cess gap will be ₹63.200

crore for 2019-20. In a development with far-reaching implications. non-BJP ruled states after the GST Council meeting said that the Union government may be headed for a sovereign default as it has refused to assure them of paying on time the GST dues guaranteed

them through a Constitutional amendment. The showdown between the Centre and states, which started with delays in the monthly payment of compensation to states for loss of revenue from the

roll-out of the goods and services tax regime, escalated into shedding of the consensual approach to decision making for the first time at the 38th meeting of the GST Council. While Nirma

Nirmala Sitharaman had reiterated her stand that the central government was committed to cooperative federalism, finance ministers of non-BJP ruled states such as Punjab and Kerala said she refused to give a categorical assurance that states will be paid compensation on time. -PTI

IRDAI rebukes Cardif for selling stake in SBI Life without its nod

FALAKNAAZ SYED MUMBAI, DEC. 24

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDA) on Tuesday reprimanded BNP Paribas Cardif, the foreign promoter of SBI Life Insurance Company for selling five crore

Panel favours raising GST Sebi set to end rates, cutting exemptions the use of pool funds by MFs

The move comes

in the aftermath of

Karvy Stock Broking

episode, wherein the

broker allegedly mis-

used clients' securi-

ties to the tune of

over ₹2,000 crore.

Under the pro-

posed framework,

the exchanges are

required to facilitate

face between clients

and the clearing cor-

poration, bypassing

intermediaries.

crore.

clearing

on Monday.

tion, units are directly

176.54

a more direct inter-

Benchmark

equity

New Delhi, Dec. 24: With an aim to protect mutual fund investors against the misuse of their investments, markets regulator Sebi has proposed to dis-continue usage of pool accounts by all platforms in transaction of such schemes.

Healthy rental

growth in 2020

slowdown, cities like

Even as the Indian real estate

sector continues to witness a

Bengaluru and Mumbai are

expected to attract healthy

office rentals in 2020, mainly backed by rapid expansion o

IT industry, a report has said

The National Capital Region (NCR) would see stable

growth in rentals.

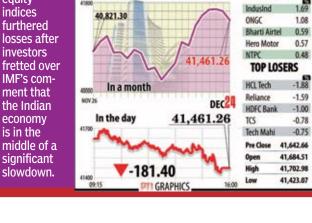
Sebi said instances have come to light where client's funds and securities were diverted by trading or clearing member towards margin obligations or settlement obligations of itself or for some third party or for raising loan against shares on its own account.

Noting the scope of misuse of investments when mutual fund transactions were executed through intermediaries like stock brokers and clearing members and digital platforms provided by mutual fund distributors (MFDs) and investment advisors (IAs), Sebi said asset management companies (AMCs) lose the sight of the source of funds as they receive the funds pool or escrow from accounts.

In order to address these challenges and to promote a secure investing envi-ronment in MF, Sebi has "proposed that pooling of funds or units by stock brokers, MFDs, IAs and other platforms may be discontinued for mutual fund transactions".

The move comes in the aftermath of Karvy Stock Broking episode, wherein the broker allegedly mis-used clients' securities to credited into and debited from the investor account the tune of over ₹2,000 respectively, it said. - PTI

Export of



SENSEX | DECEMBER 24

Smallcap, midcap funds perform badly in 2019

TOP GAINERS

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD MUMBAI, DEC. 24

Mutual funds schemes in the mid cap and small cap funds category underperformed in the year 2019 and some of them gave single digit or negative returns in single or even double digits while large cap and tax saving ELSS schemes mostly gave positive returns in single or double digits. The hybrid funds with large size asset under management (AUM) which invest in both equity and debt instruments to generate higher returns than banks fixed deposit have given single digit return year to date; one large fund even gave negative return.

Under the proposed Equity market rally towards the end of the year boosted return of most of the funds as framework, the exchanges are required to facilitate a more direct interface between clients and the Nifty 50 index returns corporation, bypassing intermediaries. in last three month "For transactions on ended on November 30, 2019 was 9.57 per cent exchange platforms through stock broker(s), compared to one year exchanges shall put necesreturn of 12.34 per cent. sary system in place to In broader markets saw ensure that pay-in is bigger recovery in the directly received by recoglast three months ended nised clearing corpora-tion from investor's bank on November 30 with Nifty Midcap 150 index returns of 10.82 per account and pay-out is directly made to investor's cent compared to one bank account from recogyear return of 2.94 per nised clearing corpora-tion's account," as per the discussion paper issued cent and Nifty Mid-cap 50 index last three month return of 11 per cent compared to one In the same manner, for year return of -0.18 per subscription and redemp-

cent. Among the large cap category funds the fund with large AUMs returns were mixed varying from 14.25 per cent to negative return

of 0.34 per cent. The equity linked saving schemes or ELSS mostly given positive eturns though two large size funds have given negative returns too. The underperformance of mid-cap and small-cap fund continued for the second year in a row. The large sized mid-cap funds mostly gave single digit negative returns while one fund return was almost flat. The small cap funds performed the worst with most of the providing negative returns in single or double digits during 2019.

CII flags 'fear factor' among entrepreneurs New Delhi, Dec. 24: Ind-

ustry body CII on Tues-day said that of late, there are increasing incidents where commercial and civil disputes are being treated as criminal complaints, thereby creating a "fear factor" among entrepreneurs and for-

eign investors. To address the issue, CII FALAKNAAZ SYED MUMBAI, DEC. 24 Start-up Council chair-Gopalakri incidents foreign Prime

Banks see 74% rise in frauds

of large frauds was even

In February 2018, the

government issued a

framework for timely

Hiranandani JV firm plans to invest ₹2,500cr

Realty firm Hiranandani Group on Tuesday said its subsidiary has formed an equal joint venture with global investment firm Blackstone to develop industrial as well as warehousing assets, and will together invest ₹2,500 crore over the next four years. "Logistics and warehousing will be one of the major beneficiaries of this growth," the company said.

Sebi asks InvITs to file draft docs before the issue

Sebi on Tuesday asked infrastructure investment trusts (InvITs) to file draft papers with the regulator and exchanges 30 days prior to opening of the issue. The draft placement memorandum shall be filed through a Sebi registered merchant banker. "The circular shall come into effect from January 15, 2020 for all InvITs issuing units on private placement basis and are proposed to be listed," the regulator said.

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Editor: T.Venkatram Reddy, RNI Registration number 30074/09, Air sur-charge Re 1. © All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission of The Editor. Financial Chronicle ® is prohibited.

man Kris shnan called for decriminalising business and economic cases that fall within the domain of arbitration or civil courts, unless there is an intent of fraud. Gopalakrishnan said that "lately, there have been increasing where commercial and civil disputes are being treated as criminal complaints, thereby creating a fear factor among directors, young entrepre-neurs and foreign investors' Minister Narendra Modi last week said the government is working to decriminalise some pro-visions of the Companies Act to make it easier to do business in the country. "For such business and economic legislations which fall within the domain of arbitration or civil courts, the government needs to consider decriminalising the laws, unless there is an intent of fraud or misdoings," said Mr Gopalakrishnan. This will not only increase confidence of both domestic and global players but also boost ease of doing business in India, he added. - PTI

New York, Dec.

that use leverage to offer

double or triple the daily return of benchmark U.S.

stock indexes rank among

the 10 top-performing funds of the decade, with

returns that in some cases

neared 2,000 per cent, despite warnings that

they are not suitable for

The huge gains for lever-

aged ETFs reflect the ben-

efits of betting on growth

during the longest bull

market in history. But

they also highlight the

subtle ways in which

record-low volatility bol-

most investors.

higher at 91.6 per cent in 2018-19," said the report. Banks reported a total fraud of ₹71,543 crore in 2018-19, a 74 per cent rise as against ₹41,167 crore detection, reporting and in the previous financial year with state owned banks accounting for a bulk of these frauds according to the Reserve Bank of India's report titled Trends and Progress of Banking 2018-19. The number of fraud reported by cases lenders also jumped to 6,801 in 2018-19, com-pared to 5,916 cases in 2017-18. "Public sector banks accounted for a bulk of

frauds reported in 2018-19 — 55.4 per cent of the number of cases reported and 90.2 per cent of the amount involved mainly reflecting the lack of adequate internal processes, people and systems to tackle operational risks," said the RBI report.

"Private sector banks and foreign banks shares in the former stood at 30.7 per cent and 11.2 per cent, whereas their shares in the latter were 7.7 per cent and 1.3 per cent, respectively. PSBs' share in the value

investigation relating to frauds in PSBs, which required them to evaluate NPA accounts exceeding ₹50 crore from the angle of possible frauds, to supple-ment the earlier efforts to unearth fraudulent transactions. appears to have caused the sharp jump in reported frauds in 2018-19 said the report. Meanwhile the central bank said the health of the banking system has improved with the gross non-performing loan ratio remaining stable at 9.1 per cent as of September-end, the same level as in FY19.

However, the numbers indicate major improve-ment on a full-year basis, as in FY18 the ratio stood at a high of 11.2 per cent and slipped to 9.1 per cent in FY19, the RBI said. It said the improveme-

nt in asset quality was driven by state-run lenders which saw a drop both in both GNPA and in the net NPA ratios.

shares of SBI Life to mul tiple parties without seek ing its prior approval. However the regulator abstained from penalising the foreign insurer.

The IRDAI in an order Tuesday said that on Cardif on March 29, 2019 sold 5.069 per cent of SBI Life's total shareholding, by way of on-market transaction without taking prior approval of the regulator which was a violation of extant rules. "During the personal hearing with the regula-tor, Cardif confirmed that prior approval was not sought as their legal counsel advised them that prior approval was required by the acquirer and not the transferor. The representatives of Cardif further submitted that on the advice of their counsel, they genuinely believed that prior approval of IRDAI was not required and hence, prior approval was not sought.

"When the provisions of the Act and Regulations were pointed out to them, they requested IRDAI to condone the unintentional mistake and submitted that in future the same would not be repeated," said the order.

Silver Jewellerv 128.97 89.01 Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct NOV 2019

ESIC data claims 12.44L jobs were created in Oct.

New Delhi, Dec. 24: Aro-und 12.44 lakh jobs were created in October as compared with 12.23 lakh in the previous month, according to payroll data of Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC).

Gross enrolments of subscribers with new ESIC were 1.49 crore during the entire financial year 2018-19, the National Statistical Office (NSO) said in a report.

TOP 3 WORST

MID CAP FUND HDFC Midcap Opportunities Fund (-6.42) L&T Mid Cap Fund (-3.82) Sundaram Mid Cap Fund (-3.52)

SMALL CAP FUND HDFC Small Cap Fund (-14.8%) Franklin India Smaller Companies Fund (-10.8%) L&T Emerging Business Fund (-10.57%)

Source: FC Research

Risky ETFs won the decade, unlikely to repeat performance

24: stered investors. Exchange-traded funds

High volatility hurts leveraged ETFs by adding costs to the daily rebalancing trades necessary to maintain leverage.

Fund experts and analysts caution that the outsized returns for leveraged funds may not be repeated in the decade ahead. "This was virtually the perfect decade. You had very low volatility, very low borrowing costs, and above-aver-age market returns," said William Trainor, a professor at East Tennessee State University who specializes in the study of leveraged ETFs.

While leveraged funds will outperform other options in the decade ahead, Trainor said, rising borrowing costs over the next 3 to 4 years will likely weigh on possible gains. "I don't think we will see the returns that we've seen again," he said. The Direxion Daily Technology Bull 3X ETĚ, for instance, returned nearly 1,920 per cent between the start of 2010 through November of this according vear, to Morningstar data, the biggest gain among the roughly 10,000 mutual funds and ETFs available



in the US. The ProShares Ultra QQQ, which offers two times the daily return of the Nasdaq 100 index, posted the second-best return with a nearly 1,330

per cent gain over the decade.

The top actively man-aged US stock fund over the decade, by compari-son, gained 441 per cent, led by the Virtus KAR Small-Cap Growth fund, the Fidelity Select Retailing fund, and the Berkshire Focus fund.

Despite their outperformance, leveraged funds remain more suitable for tactical investors such as hedge funds than longterm investors, said Todd Rosenbluth, director of ETF and mutual fund research at CFRA.

"You can be very, very

right or very, very wrong [with the use of leverage] and that can also reverse itself relatively quickly, he said.

It also showed that dur-

ing the September 2017-October 2019 period,

around 3.22 crore new sub-

scribers joined the ESIC

scheme. The NSO report is based

on the payroll data of new

subscribers of various

social security schemes

run by ESIC, retirement

fund body EPFO and the

Pension Fund Regulatory

and Development Autho-

rity (PFRDA).

Investors in exchangetraded notes that made leveraged bets on volatility, for instance, suffered one-day losses of 90 per cent in February, 2018, after the Dow Jones Industrial Average plunged.

Approximately \$35 billion in assets is invested in leveraged ETFs and mutual funds, according to Refinitiv Lipper data, with most investors holding the funds for only a few days or weeks at a time.

Robert Nestor, president of leveraged-fund provider Direxion, said that the firm is expecting much of its growth to come in pro-viding funds with no net leverage that appeal to longer-term investors interested in issues such as ESG, a catch-all term for investing in companies that focus on environmental, social, and governance issues.

"We're looking at things that are relevant to other big pockets of assets and investors that don't have or want high levels or leverage," he said.

– Reuters























Imminent threat

John Bolton, former US national security adviser, criticising Trump's North Korea policy, warns that the Asian country posed an 'imminent' threat



A forced merger of Belarus and Russia could trigger a war — Alexander Lukashenko **Belarus president**



Russian fighter jet

crashes, pilot safe Moscow: Russian officials said on Tuesday that a topof-the-line fighter jet has crashed on a training mission but that its pilot bailed out safely. Russia's United Aircraft Corporation said in a statement that the Su-57 fighter came down during a training flight near Komsomolsk-on-Amur in the country's far east. It said the plane's pilot safely ejected and there was no damage on the ground. The cause of the crash wasn't immediately known

Nepal detains 122 Chinese for fraud

Kathmandu: Police in Nepal have detained 122 Chinese nationals in its biggest crackdown on crime by foreigners entering the country on tourist visa, officials said on Tuesday. The chief of police in the capital, Kathmandu, Uttam Subedi, said 122 Chinese men and women were rounded up in raids on Monday following information that they were engaged in suspicious activities. The Chinese citizens are suspected of carrying out cyber crime and hacking into bank cash machines in Nepal, Subedi said.

Bolsonaro leaves hospital after fall

Rio de Janeiro: Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro left a hospital on Tuesday morning after a fall in the presidential residence. Bolsonaro spent a night in observation in the armed forces' hospital in the capital city of Brasilia and was discharged around 7:30 am local time. The presidency's communications office confirmed that Bolsonaro had fallen and said he had been ordered to rest.

Acceleration, if continues, will break records next century

Indian Ocean rose by 1 metre in 200 years

Toronto, Dec. 24: The sea levels in the central Indian Ocean have risen by close to a metre in the last two centuries, accord-

The research, published in the journal Nature Geoscience, provides new details about sea levels in the past. "We know that certain

said.

Sea-level

sea-level

unprecedented,

researchers said.

new cafe culture is brewing in the San Francisco area, where a growing number of coffee houses are banishing paper to-go types of fossil corals act as important recorders of past sea levels," said Professor Paul Kench cups and replacing them Simon Fraser with everything from from University in Canada. glass jars to rental mugs

change

"By measuring the ages and the depths of these and BYO cup policies. What started as a small trend among neighborfossil corals, we are identifying that there have been hood cafes to reduce waste periods several hundred is gaining support from years ago that the sea level some big names in the has been much lower than city's food and coffee we thought in parts of the Indian Ocean," Kench world. Celebrated

Dominique Crenn, owner reconstrucof the three-star Michelin tions over the past two millennia provide a prerestaurant Atelier Crenn, is opening a Francisco cafe next vear industrial context to assess whether the magnitude and rate of modern

vide greater insights into is the how coral reef systems and islands may be able to Understanding where sea levels have been hisrespond to the changes in sea levels in the future, torically, and what hapthey said. ongoing study, pens as they rise, will pro-Tĥe

San Fransisco, Dec. 24: A

chef

San

that will have no to-go bags or disposable coffee cups and will use no plastic. Customers who plan to sip and go at Boutique Crenn will be encouraged to bring their own coffee cups, says spokeswoman Kate Bittman.

San Francisco cafes banish

disposable coffee cups

On a bigger scale, the Blue Bottle coffeehouse chain, which goes through about 15,000 to-go cups a month at its 70 US locations, says it wants to 'show our guests and the world that we can eliminate disposable cups."

Blue Bottle is starting small with plans to stop using paper cups at two of its San Francisco area branches in 2020, as part

which began in 2017, underscores the serious threat posed to coastal cities and communities in the region, the researchers said. It also suggests that if said.

of a pledge to go "zero waste" by the end of next year. Coffee to-go customers will have to bring their own mug or pay a deposit for a reusable cup, which they can keep or return for a refund. The deposit fee will likely be between \$3 and \$5, the company said. Blue Bottle's pilot pro-

THE ASIAN AGE

gram will help guide the company on how to expand the idea nation-wide, CEO Bryan Meehan said in a statement.

'We expect to lose some business," he said. "We know some of our guests won't like it — and we're prepared for that." — AFP

such acceleration continues over the next century, sea levels in the Indian Ocean will have risen to their highest level ever in recorded history, they

NOVEL CO₂ CAPTURING TECH MAY CUT VEHICLE EMISSIONS BY 90 PER CENT

WEDNESDAY | 25 DECEMBER 2019 | NEW DELHI

In the study,

journal Frontiers in

Research, the

scientists used

water is sepa-

Energy

published in the

Scientists at the Swiss **Federal Institute** of Technology Lausanne have developed a new technology that could cut carbon dioxide emissions from trucks and buses by almost 90 per cent by capturing CO2 within the exhaust system, converting it into a liquid and storing it on the vehicle.

The liquid CO₂ would then be delivered to a service station where it will be turned back into fuel using renewable energy, according to the researchers. Researchers propose to cap-

in a process available onboard, such as heat from the rated from the engine.

TITITITI III CO₂ is isolated from the other gases such as nitrogen and oxygen with a temperature swing adsorption system, using metalorganic frameworks adsorbent, which are specially designed to absorb CO₂.

PAGE

10

Once the material is saturated with CO_2 , it is heated so that pure CO_2 can be extracted from it, the researchers said.

High speed turbocompressors developed by Jurg Schiffmann's laboratory at EPFL use heat from the vehicle's engine to compress the extracted CO₂ and turn it into a liquid.

Worst flooding damage in Venice cost Saint Mark's Basilica's \$5.5m

Venice, Dec. 24: "Every stone is a treasure," says the technical director of St. Mark's Basilica's vestry board, indicating gold-leaf prized the mosaics overhead, the inlaid stone pavement and the marble clad walls of the 923-year-old masterpiece.

And many are vulnerable to the infiltration of sea water during the lagoon city's ever-higher tides.

Constructed atop two previous churches on a site early Venetians that believed was among the most secure in the Canal City, St. Mark's Basilica suffered at least 5 million



'China backed efforts to ease Indo-Pak tensions'

gases.

K J M VARMA **BEIJING, DEC. 24**

China had supported the efforts of India and Pakistan to defuse tensions and manage their differences through dialogue following the deadly Pulwama terror attack, Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi said, highlighting behind-the-scenes role

played by Beijing. After the attack carried out by Pakistan-based Pakistan restraint from Islamabad. Jaish-e-Muhammad in February that killed 40 CRPF personnel, India nist Party's official newscarried out air strikes paper, the People's Daily, against the biggest trainabout China's diplomatic ing camp of the terror group in Balakot in achievements in 2019. Mr Wang mentioned post-



to

In an interview to the

ruling Chinese Commu-

counsel

Minister Narendra Mod and Chinese President Xi Jinping in October at the top of highlights of the Chinese diplomacy in the neighbourhood, saying the meeting helped the two sides to charter the course for the steady growth of their ties. "There are many high-

lights in China's neighbourhood diplomacy this

ear," he said. "First, we have improved and developed relations with our neighbours in an all-round way. President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Narendra Modi had a successful second summit in Chennai and charted the course for the steady growth of China

India relations," he said.

Earlier at a symposium on China's diplomacy in 2019 held here on December 13, Mr Wang

said the Chennai summit

had set the tone for a

steady and sound develop-

ment of ties between

Over the past year, China

strengthened relations

with neighbouring coun-

tries and made positive contributions, promoting

regional stability and development, Wang said,

while highlighting China's

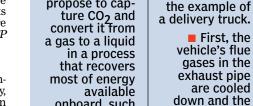
diplomatic outreach in the

comprehensively

India and China.

neighbourhood.

has



HK uses tear gas on Christmas eve

Hong Kong: Hong Kong riot police fired rounds of tear gas at thousands of protesters, many wearing masks and reindeer horns, after scuffles in shopping malls and in a prime tourist district as anti-government rallies escalated into chaos on Christmas Eve. Protesters inside the malls threw umbrellas and other objects at police who responded by beating some demonstrators with batons, with one pointing his gun at the crowd, but not firing. Police fired tear gas to disperse protesters who had occupied the main roads and blocked traffic outside the malls and nearby luxury hotels, including the Peninsula, in the Tsim Sha Tsui tourist district of Kowloon. There was a heavy police presence.

WITNESSES NOT **RULED OUT IN TRUMP TRAIL**

Washington: Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said that he was not ruling out calling witnesses in President Donald Trump's impeachment trial, but indicated he was in no hurry to seek new testimony either, as lawmakers remain at an impasse over the form of the trial by the GOP-controlled Senate. The House voted Wednesday to impeach Trump, who became only the third president in US history to be formally charged with "high crimes and misdemeanors. But the Senate trial may be held up until lawmakers can agree on how to proceed. Minority leader Chuck Schumer is demanding witnesses who refused to appear during House committee hearings, including acting White House chief of staff Mick Mulvaney, and former national security adviser John Bolton. - AP

euros (\$5.5 million) in damage during last month's devastating great tides. The first, on Nov. 12, was the highest in 53 years, followed by two above 1.5 meters (4.9 feet), a series of severe inundations never before recorded.

Though the highest was seven centimeters less than the famed 1966 flood of 1.94 meters, St. Mark's chief caretaker, Carlo Alberto Tesserin, said, "We say this was the worst." Unlike other natural disasters, like, say, an earthquake that leaves images of collapsed bell towers and fallen walls, fresh damage from the Venice floods is so far not visible to the naked eye.

'Someone who comes to Venice to see the high water, and who goes to St. Mark's Square the next day, sees tables in the square, says, 'Hey, look, the orchestra is playing. Nothing is wrong here.' While, in reality, what is hidden, is everything we have verified in these days," said Tesserin, who submitted the damage

estimate earlier this month to city and national officials. Peaking at 1.87 meters above sea level, pushed the waters even

last months' great tide higher, flooding through was accompanied by wind the windows in St. Mark's gusts of up to 120 kph that crypt of patriarchs. – Reuters

Pakistan.

The air strike was followed by an aerial combat between air forces of the two countries on February 27 when Pakistan jets entered India. While chasing Pakistani jet an Indian Air Force jet crashed in Pakistan occupied Kashmir following which its injured pilot was captured.

Pakistan quickly announced to release the Indian pilot, who was subsequently handed over to India.

At the height of the Indo-Pak tensions, China sent its vice-foreign minister Kong Xuanyou to

ulwama tensions and Beijing's attempts to bring peace between India and Pakistan.

"During the India-Pakistan conflict, China supported the efforts of the two sides to defuse tensions and manage differences through dialogue.' Mr Wang said, without directly referring to the Pulwama attack and the

aftermath. The transcript of his interview was circulated to media on Tuesday by the Chinese foreign ministry here.

Also, Mr Wang mentioned the 2nd informal summit between Prime

3 INDIANS DIE IN COLOMBO ROAD ACCIDENT

Colombo, Dec. 25: Three on Indians were among four people killed in a van-container truck collision in Sri Lanka's southern Kurunduga-hahetekma area, according to a media report. The victims were travelling in the van which crashed into a container truck from behind

Southern the (E-01) on Expressway Monday night, the Colombo Page reported, citing police. The deceased Indians belong to the same family — a 44year-old woman, her 18year-old son and another relative. Their names were not revealed. The

woman's husband and 10year-old daughter were injured and were shifted to Karapitiya Hospital. The driver of the van also died in the accident. He was identified as a 52year-old man from west Sri Lankan town of Wadduwa.

-PTI

Abdul Momen expresses optimism about other regional initiatives such as BIMSTEC, BBIN **BOTTOM** LINE India, Pak enmity key reason why Saarc not prospering: Bangla FM

ASIM KAMAL DHAKA, DEC. 24

Enmity between India and Pakistan is one of the main reasons why Saarc is prospering, not Bangladesh foreign minister Ä.K. Abdul Momen has said, while expressing optimism about other regional initiatives such as the BIMSTEC and the BBIN. His remarks comes following India and Pakistan blaming each other over the lack of cooperation and coordination among South the Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc) member states earlier this month. Mr Momen, while process things should work better," he said. Mr Momen also empha-

said India's efforts for

among the Saarc countries

have repeatedly been chal-

lenged with threats and

In a letter to the Saarc

secretariat to mark the

acts of terrorism.

collaboration

greater

A view of a flooded St. Marks Square during high tide, in Venice, on Tuesday.

N e p a l - B a n g l a d e s h Programme-2019' hosted by the Bangladesh Foreign Ministry here, said the prosperity of the Saarc was being obstructed by the enmity between India ever Bangladesh talks to and Pakistan. India, Nepal and Bhutan "You know why Saarc is issues are also discussed. not prospering, one main reason is the enmity His remarks on Saarc comes weeks after Prime Minister Narendra Modi

India and but BBIN between but Bon Bhutan, RIM Pakistan, (Bangladesh, India and Nepal) and BIM-STEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) should do better. We have

sised that Bangladesh's ties with its neighbours such as Nepal and Bhutan were also on an upswing. He said, nowadays, when-

A.K. Abdul Momen

founding day of the eightmember bloc, the prime minister said all countries in the region should take effective steps to defeat the scourge of terrorism and the forces which support it, an oblique reference to

Pakistan. Such efforts, he said,

trust and confidence to build a stronger SAARC.

In the last three years, India has been distancing itself from the Saarc, citing security challenge facing the region from terror networks based in Pakistan, which is also a member of the grouping. On his part, Pakistan Prime Minister Imran

Khan, in his message on the 35th Saarc Charter Day on December 8, expressed the hope that the hiatus created in Saarc's continuous progression would be removed.

few days later, Pakistan foreign office spokesperson Mohammad

would generate greater Faisal said all South Asian countries except one want to hold the Saarc summit, which was called off in 2016, at the earliest, an apparent reference to

India. The last Saarc Summit in was held 2014in Kathmandu, which was attended by Mr Modi.

The 2016 Saarc summit was to be held in Islamabad. But after the terrorist attack on an Indian Army camp in Uri in Jammu and Kashmir on September 18 that year, India expressed its inability to participate in the summit due to "prevailing circumstances". The summit was called off after

to participate in the Islamabad meet. Saarc summits are usually held biennially and hosted by member states in alphabetical order. The member state hosting the summit assumes the Chair the Association.On December 8, 1985 at the first Saarc Summit in Dhaka, the leaders of the seven South Asian states — the Maldives, India,

Bangladesh, Bhutan and

Afghanistan also declined

Bhutan, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka signed a charter to establish the Saarc. Afghanistan became the eight Saarc member in 2007.-PTI

-AP



















Threatening gift

US President Donald Trump says he hoped that North Korea would not deliver a missile test as its threatened 'Christmas gift'



PAGE



WEDNESDAY | 25 DECEMBER 2019 | NEW DELHI



country in the world that has hypersonic weapons — Vladimir Putin **Russian president**



Bail to former Pak

min in drugs case Islamabad: Pakistan's Lahore High Court on Tuesday granted bail to former Punjab law minister Rana Sanaullah in a narcotics case lodged after the anti-narcotics force recovered 15 kg heroin from his vehicle. The court also ordered Sanaullah to submit two surety bonds worth ₹1 million each. Justice **Chaudhry Mushtaq Ahmed** heard the arguments on a post-arrest bail petition filed by advocate Zahid Hussain Bukhari, Ahsan Bhawan and Azam Nazir Tarrar.

Russian airstrikes kill 8 in Syria

Idlib: At least eight people, including five children, were killed on Tuesday in Russian airstrikes on a school in northwest Syria sheltering displaced civilians, according to the Syrian observatory for human rights. The strikes targeted the village of Jubass near the town of Saraqeb in southern Idlib province, killing civilians sheltering in and near a school. The heightened regime and Russian bombardments on southern Idlib since December 16 have forced tens of thousands of vulnerable people to flee their homes, according to the UN.

7 soldiers killed

in Afghan attack

Kabul: An early morning attack on an army checkpoint in northern Afghanistan on Tuesday killed at least seven Afghan soldiers, the defense ministry said. The ministry said that the attack in Balkh province's district of Dawlat Abad also wounded six other members of the security forces. No one claimed responsibility, but the wording of the statement indicat-



Bethlehem decks up for X-mas

Betnlehem, Dec. 24: Pilgrims from around the world gathered on Tuesday in the biblical city of Bethlehem, revered by Christians as the birthplace of Jesus, to celebrate Christmas in the Holy Land. of Thousands

Palestinians and foreign-ers converged on the "lit-tle town" in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, with Christmas Eve festivities taking place in and around the Church of the Nativity.

Archbishop Pierbattista Pizzaballa, apostolic administrator of the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem and the most senior Roman Catholic official in the Middle East, travelled from the Holy city to Bethlehem on

Tuesday afternoon. He was later to lead midnight mass at the church, with Palestinian president Mahmud Ábbas expected to attend.

Bethlehem is close to Jerusalem, but cut off from the holy city by Israel's separation barri-

'hope.

lems.

for the future.

PALESTINIAN tourism minister Rula Maayah said it had been a good year, with 3.5m tourists visiting the city

THE STRIKE against government pension reform plans has ruined Christmas travel plans for thousands of the Frenchwho are unable to reach loved ones for Christmas Day

queued to visit the grotto inside the church, believed to be the exact site where Jesus was born.

"I feel really emotional to be here today, it's wonderful," said Germana, an Italian travelling with her husband and two children.

The first church was built on the site of Jesus's birth in the fourth century, though it was replaced after a fire in the sixth century. This year, cere brations were bolstered by the return of a wooden fragment believed to be from the manger of Jesus Sent as a gift to Pope Theodore I in 640, the piece had been in Europe for more than 1,300 years before being returned last month, Francesco Patton, chief custodian for the Holy Land, said. "We venerate the relic because it reminds us of the mystery of incarnation, to the fact that the son of God was born of Mary in Bethlehem more than 2,000 years ago," Patton said at the time. In the square by the church. Palestinian tourism minister Rula Maayah said it had been a good year, with 3.5 million tourists visiting the city. But fewer Christians



A 'dunking Santa' (above) gets airborne for a shot after using a trampoline to get the height during a timeout during the second half of an NBA game between the New York Knicks and the Washington Wizards in New York. Finnish artist Klaus Haapaniemi created named 'Astral Sea' (below) is displays for the Xmas decoration at Ginza Six in Tokyo on Tuesday.



NOTICE INVITING TENDER					
Tender No. : 30-Elect-47-T-R4-18-19-E3 Provision of lift in 15 new patients cabin and separate food lift in Central Hospital, Northern Railway, New Dethi.					
Rs. 56.59 lacs					
Sr. Divil Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi.					
Rs. 113200.00					
20.01.2020, 15.00 Hrs.					
20.01.2020, 15.00 Hrs.					
www.ireps.gov.in & Sr. Divl. Elect. Engineer/General, New Delhi					
4115/2019 SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE					

NORTHERN RAILWAY

SEARCH FOR MISSING/KIDNAPPED



General public is hereby informed that a girl namely Mahak, D/o: Arshad Khan, R/o: WZ 294, Tihar Village, Delhi has been reported missing/kidnapped since 05.12.2019 from her house. In this regard FIR No. 547/19 dated 07.12.2019 u/s 363 IPC has been registered at P.S. Hari Nagar, Delhi. The description of missing/kidnapped

girl is as under

Name: Mahak, Age: About 16 Years, Height: 5'4", Face: Oval, Complexion: Wheatish, Built: Medium, Wearing: Mehroon colour suit-salwar, and white sweater.

If anyone have any information about this missing/ kidnapped girl please inform P.S. Hari Nagar, Delhi.

Veb: http://chi.nic.in_Email: cic@chi.gov.ir

ed that the authorities blame the Taliban.

Pakistan scientist plaint over rights

Islamabad: Pakistan's top nuclear scientist Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan has filed a petition in the Supreme Court, seeking enforcement of his fundamental rights, including free movement across the country, media reports said on Tuesday. Advocate Zubair Afzal Rana filed the petition on behalf of Abdul Qadeer Khan on Monday against the September 25, 2019 judgement of the Lahore High Court that had rejected his similar plea on the grounds that it lacked jurisdiction in view of the special security measures taken by the state for his protection.

LESS THAN 9L NEW JAPANESE BABIES IN 2019

Tokyo: The number of babies born in Japan fell an estimated 5.9% this year to fewer than 900,000 for the first time since the government started compiling data in 1899, the welfare ministry said on Tuesday. The dwindling number of births will put more strain on welfare finances to support snowballing costs of supporting an ageing population, which would undermine economic growth, analysts say. There were 512,000 more deaths than births this year, the first time the figure has surpassed 500,000, with 864,000 babies born. Last year, 918,400 babies were born. This was the biggest decline in births since 1975, driven by fewer women aged 25 to 39, said a ministry official in charge of compiling the data. The government is hoping for a birth rate of 1.8% — which would appear a tall order given the rate was 1.42% in 2018. er. After crossing through the wall, Pizzaballa said it was a difficult time but there was reason for

"We see in this period the weakness of politics, enormous economic probunemployment, problems in families - so when we look at this reality, we could say that there is nothing to hope for," he said. "On the other side, when I visit families, parishes, communities, I see a lot of commitment Christmas is for us to celebrate the hope.' In the square outside

the church, a few thou-sand people watched in winter sun as Palestinian scouts paraded to the sound of drums.

A group of 20 New Zealanders sang carols in front of the 15-metre from the Gaza Strip were Christmas tree. in attendance than in pre-

In the morning, tourists vious years, as Israel had

in the Holy Land.

erendum.



granted permits to just around 300 of the some Israeli 900 people who applied, said Wadie Abunassar, an adviser to church leaders mits.

Around the world, peo-The Palestinian territo- ple were getting ready to ries of the West Bank and ring in the Christmas fes

tivities. In France, trav-Gaza are separated by territory and ellers were meanwhile facing more woe in the crossing between them bitter nearly-three week requires hard-to-get perstrike by train drivers fighting government pension reform plans.

-AFP

Ph.: 011-24368638/24368641, Fax: 011-24368639 SHO Police Station, Hari Nagar, Delhi Ph: 011-28525719, 8750871128, DP/8545/WD/19 8368215758, 9212310564

APPEAL FOR IDENTIFICATION

General public is hereby informed that this person Named: Unknown, S/o: Unknown, R/o: Unknown, Age: 50 Years, Sex: Male, Height: 5'7", Complexion: Wheatish, Wearing: White Linedar Shirt & Black Colour Lower, Found Dead at Footpath Near Railway Hospital, SPM Marg, in the Area of Ps. Lahori

Gate, Delhi on 18.12.2019.

In this regard a DD No. 38-A, dated 18.12.2019 has been lodged at P.S. Lahori Gate, Delhi.

Sincere efforts have been made by local police to trace out information about this person but no clue has come to light so far

Any person having any information or clue about this person may kindly inform to the following. SHO

> P.S. Lahori Gate, Delhi Ph.: 011-23953776, 8750870122

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE

DP/802/N/19

TEI Sr.Divisional Commercial Manager, Northern Railway, for & on hebalf of the President of India, e-tender fo

London, Dec. 24: Queen
Elizabeth II called 2019
"quite bumpy" in a
Christmas message at the
end of a chaotic year
which saw Britain feud
over its split from the
European Union and her
scandal-plagued son
Prince Andrew withdraw
from public life.
The 93-year-old

93-year-old Tne monarch's received good news when husband Prince Philip checked out of a London hospital after a four-night stay in time to join the royal family for Christmas.

But the year was filled with disappointments for the queen - a seminal figure in British public life who assumed the throne in 1952 and is beloved by much of the nation.

None may have been bitter than a more calamitous BBC interview in which her second son Andrew tried to dis-



Queen Elizabeth II

himself from tance paedophile American Jeffrey Epstein. Andrew promised to "step back from public duties" after his denial of having sex with one of Epstein's alleged victims was ridiculed in the UK media and reportedly criticised in Buckingham Palace.

The Queen's traditional address — to be aired in full on Christmas Day — will point to the life of Jesus as an example of



The marriages of three of her children fell apart and her beloved Windsor Castle nearly went up in flames in that "horrible

faith and in hope can overcome long-held dif-ferences and deep-seated herse tortuo of E appro The remarks were wide-Johns ly interpreted as a referpend ence to the Brexit debate Augus that has torn Britain apart since it voted to was a oppor leave the EU in a 2016 refdrawa eme 'The path, of course, is

ruled not always smooth, and reque ful a blame the qu The rumo disap

grand and h actres Markle.

into their private lives.

	ID-
ĨV	S
. The Queen found	no
lf dragged into the	
ous political drama	1
Brexit when she	
oved PM Boris	2
son's request to sus-	2
parliament in	
st. Critics claimed it	
n attempt to silence	3
nents to ĥis EU with-	
al plans. The Supr-	
Court subsequently	4
that Johnson's	4
st had been unlaw-	
and many people	
ed him for making	5
leen look bad.	
queen was also ured to have been	
ured to have been	6
pointed by her	0
lson Prince Harry	
is American former	
ss wife Meghan	7
1	1 1

The young couple made waves by speaking out about their struggle with life in the public eye and then suing three British newspapers for prying - AFP

S. 10.	Name of Work & Place	Area (in sq.meter)	Reserve Price for 01 year (excluding GST)	Earnest Money (2%of reserve price of 3 years	Completion period	Cost of Tender Form (With 18% GST)
	Contract for Car Parking at Shahjahanpur 1st Railway Station. ('A'-Calegory)		Rs. 1,95,840/-	Rs. 11,800/- to be paid through online paymentgateway		Rs.2,360/- to be paid through online paymentgateway
2.	Contract for Cycle Scooter, Motor-Cycle Stand at Hapur lind Entry Railway Station ('A'Calegory)	Sq.m	Rs. 1,95,996/-	Rs. 11,800/- to be paid through online paymentgateway		Rs.2,360/-tobe paid through online paymentgateway
3.	Contract for Cycle Scooter, Motor-Cycle Stand 1st al Moradabad Railway Station ('A'Calegory)	Sq.m	Rs. 10,27,142/-	Rs. 61,700/- to be paid through online paymentgateway		Rs.3,540/-tobe paid through online paymentgateway
4.	Contract for Cycle Scooter, Motor-Cycle Stand at Nagina Railway Station ('D' Category)	Sq.m	Rs. 2,08,003/-	Rs. 12,500/- to be paid through online paymentgateway		Rs.2,360/-to be paid through online paymentgateway
5.	Contract for Cycle Scooter, Motor-Cycle Stand at Bijnor Railway Station ('D' Category)	Sq.m	Rs. 24,576/-	Rs. 1.500/- to be paid through online paymentgateway		Rs.1,180/-tobe paid through online paymentgateway
6.	Contract for Cycle Scooter, Motor-Cycle Stand at Laksar Railway Station ('B' Category)	Sq.m	Rs. 2,73,456/-	Rs.16,500/- to be paid through online payment gateway		Rs.2,360/-tobe paid through online paymentgateway
7.	Contract for Cycle Scooter, Motor-Cycle Stand (For Staff Parking) at Moradabad Railway Station ('A' Category)	Sq.m	Rs. 82,164/-	Rs.5,000/- to be paid through online paymentgateway		Rs.1,180/-tobe paid through online paymentgateway

Note: The pre-bid conference regarding to the tender will be held at 05.01.20 in DRM's Office, Commercial Branch, Moradabad at 11.00 am. 1. Single packet system shall be adopted in this tender. 2. In case of any difficulty helpdesk and learning centre available on the velocities the tender regarding to the tender regarding to the tender state of any difficulty helpdesk and learning centre available on the velocities that the tender regarding to the tender regarding the adopted in this tender. Tender Notice No.21-10/Parking/MB/2019/C bt. 24.12.2019.

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE







Inspiration

Rami Malek says music icon Freddie Mercury guided him in finding his Bond antagonist

Newsmakers 12 WEDNESDAY | 25 DECEMBER 2019 | NEW DELHI



I will never watch Harry Potter movies again. It is time to move on. — Rupert Grint.

American actor

BRIFF



break for family time

Ν

Los Angeles: Avengers star Chris Hemsworth is planning to take a six to eight-month break from the spotlight to spend time at home in Australia with his family. The Thor star, who has kids India, seven, and five-year-old twins Sasha and Tristan with wife Elsa Pataky, said he just wants to live in the moment. 'I'm going to take some time off now - probably six to eight months - and just be at home. I had a real, sort of, come down off the back of that press tour for Avengers: Endgame and it was the most intense three weeks. - PTI

Paulson: Would love to return for AHS

Los Angeles: Actor Sarah Paulson may have opted to sit out on the ninth installment of American Horror Story, but she would return to the horror series in a heartbeat to work with her co-star Evan Peters. The actor, who, along with Peters, has been a series regular on the FX anthology since its debut in 2011, said she is open to coming back to the series if he does. Peters also sat out on American Horror Story: 1984. - PTI



Brian McFadden gets engaged to Danielle

Los Angeles: Singer Brian McFadden is engaged to his longtime partner, teacher Danielle Parkinson. The former Westlife member made the announcement on Twitter on Monday. "⊢YIIgot engaged to beautiful @DaniParky. And yes I'm very very happy," McFadden said in a series of tweets. "I'm engaged to woman of my dreams," he captioned a selfie with Parkinson. McFadden was previously married to former Atomic Kitten singer Kerry Katona. Katona wished the couple on their engage-ment. – PTI

It takes a tech village to track Santa on X-mas eve

Peterson Air Force Base (US): For the 64th time, a wildly popular program run by the US and Canadian militaries is providing real-time providing on updates Santa's progress to around the globe progress millions

And this year, the North Aerospace Command American Defense (Norad) is offering even more high-tech ways for children and parents to

follow along. Operation Norad Tracks Santa has evolved from a misdirected telephone call in 1955, to a trailer parked outside the command's former lair deep inside Cheyenne Mountain, to Norad's modern-day headquarters at Colorado's Peterson Air Force Base. Along the way, the tens of thousands of telephone calls fielded by Norad vol-unteers each year have

been augmented by an explosion of technology that lets millions track St. Nick's journey from the North Pole to the Pacific and Asia, from Europe to

the Americas. This year's portals include Alexa, OnStar, Twitter, Facebook,

Oz Christmas gift scramble leaves dozen people injured



Illuminated Monitors in the Norad Tracks Santa center at Peterson Air Force Base on Monday. – AP

Instagram and 3-D apps to deliver the immersive developed for mobile devices by Cesium, a Philadelphia-based IT and defense contractor.

The apps integrate geospatial and satellitepositioning technology with high-resolution graphics that display the actual positions of the stars, sun and moon and the shadows they cast at any point in Santa's journev. It takes a village of

dozens of tech firms Google, including Microsoft, Hewlett Packard and Bing Maps —

Sydney: A frantic scramble for gift promotions left a dozen people health. injured in an Australian mall on Tuesday, after hundreds of balloons with prizes inside were dropped on Christmas shoppers gathered below. Around 150 people jostled for prime position as two massive bags full of balloons hovered overhead in the shop-

ping centre in Sydney's western suburbs. When they were opened at midnight, cries went up as the crowd surged forwards, crushing people and knocking over a Christmas prop, which sent a Santa careening back several metres, footage of the event shows.

effect for global Santa trackers, with some 15 telephone number in a newspaper department store ad, thinking she was million visits to the website alone last year. And it takes a village of 1,500 volunteers to field emails and the 140,000 or so telephone calls to 1-877-HI-Norad (1-877-446-6723). They staff phone banks equipped with monitors

inside a building at Peterson, which offers a view of snow-capped Pikes Peak to the west. More volunteers and

was

traditionally

now

calling Santa. A fastthinking Shoup quickly assured his caller that he was. And a tradition was born. Today, most early calls come from Japan and Europe. The volume soars in the U.S. And Canada, said program manager Preston Schlachter. United Kingdom callers

THE ASIAN AGE

reads.

the

about Fame Those in ask Christmas. and coffee to those on Papa Noel's whereabouts. Santa Watch.

'Hi Santa Trackers! Lots

of kids are waiting to ask

you about Santa," a sign

Volunteers are equipped

with an Operations Center

Playbook that helps ensure

each and every caller can go to sleep happy and satis-

fied on Christmas Eve. Longtime Santa trackers are familiar with the

In 1955, Air Force Col.

Harry Shoup — the com-mander on duty one night

at NORAD's predecessor,

fielded a call from a child

who dialed a misprinted

Defense Command

Continental Air

Norad-Santa story.

Prince Philip leaves hospital to celebrate Christmas with Queen

London: Britain's Prince Philip left the hospital on Tuesdav after a four-night stay that renewed concern about the 98-year-old's

Images broadcast by British media showed Queen Elizabeth II's husband, dressed in a suit, taking a few steps and being helped into an SUV vehicle before being whisked away. Philip did not respond to photographers as he got into the vehicles, Britain's Press Association report-

Multiple police stood guard around the hospital as well as royal protection officers. The Duke of Edinburgh expected to join the queen at Sandringham, the central England country retreat where the royal family

spends Christmas. Philip was admitted to London's King Edward VII hospital on Friday. Buckingham Palace said it was for "observation and treatment in relation to a pre-existing condition", adding that it was a "pre-

cautionary measure". The duke was reportedly flown there by helicopter the from royal Sandringham estate in eastern England, where he has been based since retiring from public duties in $20\bar{1}7.$

No celebrations at Notre Dame

Paris: Notre Dame Cathedral is unable to host Christmas services for the first time since the French Revolution. because the Paris landmark was too deeply damaged by this year's fire. So its exiled clergy, choir and congregation are celebrating the holiday in another Gothic church next to the Louvre Museum instead. The accidental April consumed blaze the monument's medieval roof and collapsed its spire, and reconstruction is expected to take several vears.

MIT REVEALS FIRST

LASER ULTRASOUND

PICTURES OF HUMAN

Boston: MIT scientists

have developed a new

ultrasound ^{*} technique

that does not require contact with the body to

see inside a patient, an

advance that may help

remotely image and assess health of infants,

burn victims, and acci-

sound does not expose

patients to harmful radi

ation as X-ray and CT

scanners do, and it is

The new laser ultra-

generally non-invasive.

sound technique lever-

ages an eye and skin

masked

approached her with

what she believed was a

knife and took six-

"We've had pranksters

calling, then putting the

phone down, it's pathet-

month-old Waffle.

Ms Hussein,

Α

safe laser system.

ultra

-PTI

mar

said:

dent survivors.

Conventional



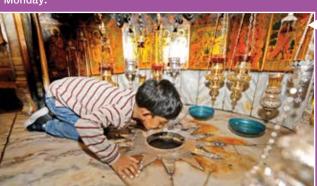
from the tons of lead dust christmas Eve and Christmas Day services will be held in the Saint-Germain l'Auxerrois

Cop, a sprinting champ, nabs bag ----





A interpreter dressed as "Scuba Claus" performs a dive in a Pacific exhibit tank while entertaining children at the aquarium in Vancouver, British Columbia on Monday.



14-pointed silver star, elieved to be the exact spot Christ was born at the grotto in the Church of he biblica: West Bank city of Bethlehem or

RIHANNA TEASES FANS ABOUT HER LATEST ALBUM

Washington: Superstar singer and fashion mogul Rihanna teased fans about her upcoming album with a dog bobbing its head. According to CNN, the singer on Sunday posted a video on her Instagram. The short video shows a fluffy dog dancing to House

of Pain's Jump Around. Rihanna joked in the caption: "update: me listening to R9 by myself and refusing to release it." However, the

Rihanna singer did not reveal any further

details about the record or its release date. R9 refers to the fact that this is her ninth studio album. About four years ago, she released her last album Anti. From that point, her multimillion-dollar maquillage line Fenty Beauty and her Savage X Fenty lingerie brand have kept the singer busy. Fans were pleased to get the update and in the first six hours, the Instagram post had a love of over 2 million. Fans and celebrities took to Rihanna's page to join in on the joke, asking the artist to release the album. Singer Normani commented on the video with three laughing face emojis while artist SZA wrote, "LOL." Waka Flocka's wife and reality star, Tammy Rivera, asked the artist, "Why you playing with us abyyyyyyy." - ANI

People were screaming at each other, telling each other to get off them," witness Christie Trawan Budi said . Twelve people were reated for minor treated injuries, with five taken

to hospital with a "mixture of leg and ankle injuries, chest pain and skeletal muscular injuries due to being stepped on," said New South Wales state ambu--AFPlance.

NEWS NUGGETS

'TWEEZER CLOCK'

MORE PRECISELY

MAY HELP TELL TIME

Washington:

Scientists, including those from NASA, have come up with a

new design for an opti-

cal atomic clock that

holds promise to be

the most accurate and

Accuracy means the

ability of the clock to

correctly pin down the

time, and precision means its ability in

fine detail, according

to the researchers at California Institute of

Technology and Jet

LABRADOODLE THEFT:

PHONE PRANKSTERS

BRANDED 'PATHETIC'

St Austell: Pranksters

who have taunted the owners of a puppy stolen at knifepoint have

been branded "pathet-

Waffle was stolen on

Hussein says she received "stupid" com-

ments over the phone

and on social media.

Labradoodle

morning,

Catherine

-PT

Propulsion Laboratory

precise yet.

of Nasa.

ic"

After

Monday

owner



Officials say the strucitors inside, and there's still a risk of poisoning

ture is too fragile to let vis-



some of Notre Dame's now-itinerant choir. A wooden liturgical platform was constructed in the Saint-Germain church

to resemble Notre Dame's own. -AP

> Opera dancers perform in . front of the Palais Garnier against the French govťs plan to overhaul the countrv's retirement system in Paris on Tuesday. – AFP

snatchers in Spain

Madrid: Two Spanish robbers who tried to flee on foot after snatching a bag containing 3,000 euros (\$3,300) met with more than they bargained for when one of the police officers pur-suing them turned out to be a record-holding sprinter. The pair snatched the bag on Friday from a man who had just been

to a bank in the Southern Spanish city

of Seville, the city's emergency services said

on its official Twitter

He quickly alerted the

police, saying the bag snatchers had fled in a

After realising the police were on their tail,

they abandoned the car

and tried to run - but

Seville's ABC newspa-

"The suspects, who had just stolen more than 3,000 euros in Seville, didn't know that

per reported.

were quickly outpaced,

feed.

The suspects, who had just stolen more than 3,000 euros in Seville, didn't know that one of the local police officers who was chasing them was a world-recordholding relay runner

one of the local police officers who was chasing them was a worldrecord-holding relay runner, and a Spanish champion with a European masters record for 400 metres,' the emergency services tweeted.

"Running for 200-300 metres, I can do that" very quickly, the police officer told *Antena3 television*, giving his name only as Sergio. — *AFP*

Pak allows King of Bahrain to hunt endangered bird

Islamabad: Pakistan has the permits have been issued special permits to issued for the 2019-20 huntissued special permits to the King of Bahrain and five others of the royal family to hunt 100 houbara bustards, an endangered bird species, notwithstanding growing criticism in the country against the move, according to a media report on Tuesday.

Ōriginally an inhabitant of the colder central Asian region, the houbara bus-tard, in order to avoid harsh weather conditions, migrates southwards every year to spend the winter in a relatively warm environment in Pakistan. Quoting sources, the Dawn News reported that

ing season by the foreign ministry's deputy chief of protocol, Mohammad Adeel Pervaiz.

The permit holders are King of Bahrain Sheikh Hamad bin Isa bin Salman al Khalifa, his uncle Sheikh Ebrahim, his cousin, who is also his interior minister, Lt Gen Sheikh Rashid bin Abdullah al Khalifa and other influential people of

the kingdom. The allotted hunting area for the king is Jamshoro district (including Thano Bula Khan. Kotri. Manjhand and Sehwan tehsils) in the Sindh

Houbara bustard, in The hunters can order to avoid hunt 100 houbara harsh weathbustards in a 10-day er conditions, safari during the three-month hunting migrates southwards to spend the winter in a relatively warm envi-

province, the report said.

The king's uncle has been allowed to hunt the migratory bird in Sujawal district of Sindh and his interior minister will hunt in Naushahro Feroze district in Sindh and Jaffarabad district in Balochistan, the

In the wake of its dwindling population, the migratory bird is not only protected under various international nature conservation treaties, its hunting is also banned under local wildlife protection laws. Pakistanis are not allowed to hunt this bird. It is the second permit for the Arab rulers after one issued to royal family of Qatar. Last week, Pakistan issued special permits to Qatar Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad bin Khalifa al Thani, his uncle, brother and seven other royal dig-nitaries of the oil-rich Gulf nation to hunt the houbara bustards.

-PTI

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— Agencies





season between November 1, 2019 and January 31, 2020

report added. The hunters can hunt 100 houbara bustards in a 10day safari during the threemonth hunting season between November 1, 2019 and January 31, 2020. The permit is person-specific, it said

DELHI SPECIAL **NEW DELHI WEDNESDAY 25 DECEMBER 2019**

SPORT | Cricket After a painful 2019, Dhawan ready to make a fresh start

NEW DELHI, DEC. 24

his government's five year

term and said that good

education and free health

facility were among top

achievements of his gov-

The Delhi Urban Shelter

(DUSIB), which is mandat-

ed to construct houses for

the slum dwellers, had

Board

Kejriwal on

launched

ernment.

demolished.

Improvement



Reds face Vardy threat on festive return to EPL

SPORT | Football



DELHI AGE

Matinee

GUIDE TO FORTUNE

Tick the answer and check them below.

The Parliament of Great Britain was formed in the year?

1705 1706

1707

2Girilal Jain was a noted 2figure in which of the following fields?

Social service Journalism Literature

The greatest hallmark of personal liberty is ?

Mandamus

Certiorari

Habeas Corpus

SHORT TAKES

No casualty in fire at Narela factories

New Delhi: A fire broke out in two factories in Delhi's Narela following a cylinder blast on Tuesday morning. No loss of lives was reported. One of the factories manufactures shoes, while the other factory was of cardboard material. According to Atul Garg, chief fire officer, Delhi Fire Services (DFS), a call was received about the first blaze at 4:52 am on Tuesday morning following which 36 fire tenders were rushed to the spot. Soon after, reports were received about the second blaze from an adjacent factory. The fire-men took eight hours to douse the blaze as there was inflammable material inside the factories, said Garg. This

is the second fire incident this week. On Monday, a massive fire ripped through a three-storey residential-cumcommercial building in outer Delhi's Kirari, killing at least nine people, including three children.

AGE CORRESPONDENT Chief minister Arvind Tuesday the "Mukhyamantri Aawas Yojana" for the residents of Jhuggi Jhopri (JJ) clusters and said the AAP government would provide a pucca house to every citi-zen of Delhi. Mr Kejriwal said 65,000 families residing in slum areas were distributed certificates and would soon be provided pucca houses. He also released a report card of

CM Arvind Keiriwal, alongwith cabinet colleagues Manish Sisodia and Gopal Rai, releases report card on AAP government's last five years in New Delhi on – BIPLAB BANDYOPADHYAY Tuesday.

> ity and subsidised electricity as its main achievements. "We are sevaks (servants)

of the public and it is our responsibility to present

our report card of our per-

formance," Mr Kejriwal said. "The kind of historic

majority we got in the last

election, we have done the

same kind of historic work

convenor said the educa-

tion budget has increased

under the ongoing survey. "It is a matter of great pride and happiness for all of us today. The slum Speaking at an event, Mr Kejriwal said in the last 70 dwellers who have been years no government has covered under the Delhi worked for the people of JJ government's survey will clusters and these certifi-cate would ensure that these slums would not be be getting pucca houses," Mr Kejriwal said. "These certificates are a

surety of non-destruction and non-encroachment of in the last five years," he said. The AAP national your slums, as well as a surety of getting pucca houses," he said. Mr Kejriwal released a report card, listing out top 10

Mr Kejriwal claimed that in the last 70 years, a total of 17,000 classrooms were constructed in government schools in Delhi while during AAP's five-year tenure, 20,000 classrooms were built

AAP govt's report card of last 5 years lists achievements in education, healthcare, power

schools in Delhi while during AAP's five-year tenure. 20,000 classrooms were built.

listed in the report card is free health facility under the title of "Quality Healthcare for All". "We are the only government to spend 13 per cent of its budget on health. The budget was also increased from ₹3,500 crore to ₹7,500 crore," the chief minister said.

"We also developed a vaccine for dengue with the help of the people of Delhi to fight the disease, which is called '10 Hafte, 10 Baje, 10 Minute'," he said.

On providing subsidised electricity to residents of the national capital, Mr Kejriwal said Delhi is the

has 24-hour electricity. Talking about providing piped water supply to every household in Delhi, he said: "About 14 lakh people have been benefited through it. Water has been supplied to 1,554 unautho-rised colonies," the chief minister said.

The report card was released by the party ahead of the Assembly elections in Delhi due early next year. Over the next two weeks, the Aam Aadmi Party will take the report card to 35 lakh households, senior party leader Gopal Rai said. During this period, the party is also planning to organise seven town halls and 700 "mohalla sabhas"

Some of the other achievements mentioned in the report card include proactive measures to ensure women's safety, improvement of public transport, pro-people government and transformational governance.

Mr Kejriwal said in a recent audit conducted by the CAG, it was found that Delhi is the only city to have a revenue surplus. "CAG is the most admired and trusted auditing agency of the central government, and we have got-ten a clean chit from it," he

AAP govt's report card bundle of lies, claim BJP, Congress

Assembly polls," Delhi BJP

He said that Mr Kejriwal

has claimed to brought

about revolutionary changes in the education sector but he must tell the

people where are the 500

new schools and 20 new col-

leges that he promised dur-

Mr Tiwari also slammed the AAP government over

condition of Delhi govern-

ment's hospitals, lack of

adequate number of public

transport buses, and quali-

ty of water supply, and said its report card was aimed

at "misleading" people before elections. "The chief minister is the chairman of

the Delhi Jal Board (DJB)

but the people of Delhi are compelled to drink pollut-ed water," he claimed.

Delhi Congress president

Subhash Chopra termed

has enlisted the services of

Prashant Kishor. If its

achievements are so good,

ing the 2015 elections.

chief Manoj Tiwari said.

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, DEC. 24

Opposition BJP and Congress on Tuesday slammed the ruling AAP government's report card of its five years in power, saying the claims made in it were "false" and aimed at getting political mileage

ahead of Assembly polls. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) challenged the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) to present the report cards of the three municipal corporations ruled by it for the last more than a decade and the work done by its Lok Sabha MPs serving their second term in Delhi.

The report card was released by chief minister Arvind Kejriwal alongwith other AAP leaders earlier in the day and ranked good education and free healthcare as top achievements of its government in Delhi. "The five year report card

the report card as a "fraud paper". "The AAP is scared of defeat in the Delhi Assembly elections and of Aam Aadmi Party government is actually a report card of fraud with then what was the need for presenting the report card," Mr Chopra alleged. the people of Delhi and a bundle of lies seeking elec-toral benefits in the

2 auto-lifters' gangs busted, 5 arrested; 16 cars seized

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, DEC. 24

With the arrest of five criminals in two separate operations, the Delhi Police on Tuesda

claimed to have busted

two gangs of auto-lifters



in anti-CAA protest march **BHASKAR HARI SHARMA** NEW DELHI, DEC. 24

Amid slogans of halla bol and chhatra ekta zindabad, which resonated through the air. scores of students



Nirbhaya case: 3 convicts to file curative petition

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, DEC, 24

The authorities had issued a

साझी जन साझी विरासत

Pucca houses for all in JJ clusters: Kejriwal

The second achievement

Minor girl rescued, juvenile nabbed

New Delhi: A minor boy has been nabbed by the Delhi Police for allegedly abducting a minor girl to force her into marriage. DCP (New Delhi) Dr. Eish Singhal said that the victim's mother informed at PS Barakhamba Road that her 15-year-old daughter was missing since November and raised suspicion on someone from Bengali Market area. A team under supervision of ACP R.R. Khatana and SHO Prahlad Singh received a tipoff that the accused along with the victim girl was hid-ing in the area of Sultanpuri JJ Cluster. The team raided the area and the accused was apprehended while the victim was rescued. The minor boy was a drug-addict and in the habit of impressing girls with his show-off and then compelled them to marry him. He was produced before the Juvenile Justice Board (JJB) and sent to observation home, the DCP added.

Girl, relative found hanging in Bawana

New Delhi: A 16-year-old girl and her 20-year-old distant relative were found hanging from a fan in a house in north Delhi's Bawana area. Police said that they have also recovered a suicide note from the girl's note book stating the condition of not getting married as reason for committing suicide. The girl. a resident of Vijav Nagar colony in Bawana, and Govind (20), a resident of Kota district in Rajasthan, hanged themselves from the ceiling fan in the house. The parents of the girl work as labourers and had gone to DSIIDC for work, said the police.

THE ANSWER TO TODAY'S GUIDE TO FORTUNE

Habeas Corpus Journalism ZOZL

from various universities including Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), Islamia Jamia Millia (JMI), and Delhi University took out a Delhi protest march from Mandi House to Jantar Mantar on Tuesday against the con-tentious Citizenship Act. The students were also joined by several people, including local residents and youths. On Tuesday noon, several

students chanting slogans of "halla bol" and "chhatra ekta zindabad" commenced their march from Mandi House to Jantar Mantar. Earlier on Tuesday morning, scores of students from JMI took out a protest march from JMI to Mandi House. The anti-CAA and NRC

protests have seen participation from people of all age groups, especially students, in huge numbers.

At Mandi House, the police had already imposed Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) to maintain law and order situation in the city and the students were stopped there. However, the police allowed protesters to march forward towards



Activists and students of various universities on a protest march in New Delhi on – PTI. ASIAN AGE Tuesday.

Jantar Mantar. Bhavreen Kandhari, 79, a renowned environmentalist from Delhi, was among protestors who the marched from Mandi House to Jantar Mantar Mandi along with hundreds of other protestoes. Marching from FICCI Auditorium in front of Mandi House Metro station, Ms Kandhari emphasised that social justice and environconservation go mental

hand in hand. 'We're into the third week of these protests and people of all religions, castes, and classes need to come together because unless there is social justice we can't fight anything else.

"It is the need of the hour to not only raise awareness about climate change but to make policies that are aligned with the conserva-tion and development of the environment. These protests provide environmentalists and activists a platform to educate people and propagate for the cause." she said.

Kiran, a resident of Chittaranjan Park, who brought her three-year-old twin daughters to the march, accused the government of "destroying the diversity" of the coun-

Ŏne of the protestors, who is a resident of Shaheen Bagh, said: "The ongoing protest near my

home is the most unique one among all. People, irrespective of religion, caste, and age groups, are attending it 24x7 for the last four days. We have cordoned off the road to separate police personnel and public so that no one gets near the police vehicles. Another lady from the same area said, "Food was

available which was provided to everyone, including the police personnel. Water for ablution (wuzu) and mats for praying were also available. However, no media house was covering this as there was no vio lence or 'TRP.' It is a role model protest for the whole movement and it needs to be spread.

Three out of the four convicts in the Nirbhaya gang rape and murder case have told the Tihar Jail authorities that they still have the option of a curative petition before filing the mercy petition. In a reply filed in response to a notice issued to them last week, the convicts have said that although the Supreme Court has rejected their review petition they are still left with the option of filing

a curative petition. A curative petition is the last legal recourse available to a convict and it is generally considered in-chamber.

The authorities had issued a notice to the convicts of the Nirbhaya case on December 18 to file mercy petition within seven days. They had informed the four convicts that they have seven days to file the

A jail official said that if the convicts did not file mercy petition within the given time, the authorities would submit the report to the concerned court. On December 18, the

notice to the convicts of the Nirbhaya case on December 18 to file mercy petition within seven days

Patiala House court adjourned for January 7 the hearing on the issuance of death warrants against the convicts in the December 16. 2012, case.

The city court gave a week's time to know whether the four convicts are filing mercy petitions hours after the Supreme Court dis-missed the last review plea against the capital punishment.

The paramedic student was raped on the intervening night of December 16-17, 2012, inside a running bus in South Delhi by six persons and severely assaulted before being thrown out on the road. She died on December 29, 2012, at Mount Elizabeth Hospital in Singapore, where she was airlifted from Delhi for treatment.

metres at both places at

8.30 am, said a MeT department official.

Relative humidity was 92

per cent at 8.30 am, he

said. The cold conditions will prevail till the week-end, the said. Mainly clear sky is forecast for

rest of the day and maxi-

mum temperature will be

On Monday, Delhi recorded a high of 14.3

degrees Celsius and a low

of 8.3 degrees Celsius.

degrees

_ _ PTI

around 14 degree Celsius, said the official.

Noida realtor held for selling same flat to multiple buyers

Vinay Jain of the

AVJ Heights group

was absconding for

after multiple cases

of fraud were regis-

tered against him in

around one year

Gautam Buddh

Nagar

Noida, Dec. 24: A realtor has been arrested by the Noida Police for allegedly selling the same flat in a residential society to multiple people, officials said

on Tuesday. Vinay Jain of the AVJ Heights group was absconding for around one year after multiple cases of fraud were registered against him in Gautam Buddh Nagar, the ticular flat in the society police said.

to multiple people and duping them after which a 'He owns the AVJ Society in Surajpur area case of fraud was lodged of Greater Noida. He is against him," an official accused of selling one parfrom Surajpur police sta

tion said.

Jain is a resident of Vivek Vihar in Delhi, the official said. A case of fraud and forgery was registered against him in 2016, then in 2018 and the same year he was booked under the Gangster Act, the police said.

In 2019, half a dozen more FIRs were registered against him under Indian Penal Code sections 420 (fraud), 467, 468, 471 (all related to forgery), and 120B (criminal conspiracy), the police added. PT

City shivers at 5.7°C, fog affects visibility, delays train operations metre at 5.30 am. It improved and became 600

New Delhi, Dec. 24: Delhi shivered with minimum temperature plummeting to 5.7 degrees Celsius on Tuesday, second lowest in December this year, which was two notches below the average.

5.2 degrees Celsius. Moderate fog wrapped the city dropping visibility and delaying train traffic. Around 16 north-bound trains were delayed by 1-6 hours with Chennai Nizamuddin Duronto running over six hours late, said a Northern Railway

The visibility at Safadarjung and Palam was 500 metre and 300 metre at 5.30 am. It improved and became 600 metres at 8.30 am

At 364, air quality index of the city was in "very poor" category. visibility at The

Safadarjung and Palam was 500 metre and 300

active in the national capital. Police have also recovered 16 stolen luxury cars from them. The accused have been identified as Arif alias Doremon (42), a resident

of Meerut in Uttar Pradesh (UP), Kishan Gopal (49), a resident of Kota in Rajasthan, Abdul Wahid (32) and Kuldeep Pandey (24), both residents of Delhi's Harsh Vihar area and Oshaf Rabbani, a resident of district Muzaffar Nagar (UP).

According to Chinmoy Biswal, DCP (South East district), in the first operation on December 10, the police team spotted a suspicious Toyota Innova car coming from Okhla Mandi side and signalled it to stop. The driver of of the car tried to flee but was overpowered. He was identified later as Arif," said the DCP, adding that the car he was driving was found to be stolen from Ashok Vihar area.

The accused revealed that he had lifted more than 100 cars from Delhi-NCR. After that, he started to purchase stolen vehicles from auto-lifters. On his instance, one Kishan Gopal was arrested and four stolen Toyota Innova cars were recovered. Further, three more cars were recovered from the parking of Arif's associate Irshad from Hapur and two stolen cars from his godown in Meerut.

In an earlier operation on December 8, the police arrested a notorious auto-lifter Abul Wahid from Amar Colony area while he was riding in a stolen Maurit Swift car. On instance of Wahid, his associates Kuldeep Pandey and Oshaf Rabbani were arrested and four more stolen cars were recovered from Meerut, Sambhal and Hapur, said the DCP.

The minimum tempera-ture on December 19 fell to officer.



Stokes' father ill

England all-rounder Ben Stokes missed England's last full-scale practice on Tuesday for the first Test against South Africa, to be at the bedside of his seriously-ill father

THE ASIAN AGE





He's a good player of spin. He's got such a good cricket brain and a sensible head. — Ricky Ponting, Delhi Capitals coach on new recruit Alex Carey



London: The England and Wales Cricket Board on Tuesday acknowledged discussions with its Indian counterpart over a proposed four-nation tournament, which is seen as an attempt to stop the ICC from hosting a major event every year. The annual tournament, proposed by the BCCI, will involve the "big three" – India, England and Australia – besides a fourth team. "We meet regularly with other leaders from the major cricketing nations to share learnings and discuss topics that impact our sport," the ECB said. "A fournation tournament was raised at a meeting with the BCCI in December and we are open to discussions with other ICC members to see if this concept can develop." The proposed event, to be hosted by the "big three" on rotational basis from 2021, has divided opinions as it is likely to increase revenue of the boards involved. The ICC doesn't approve tournaments involving more than three teams, which are not part of its multi-lateral roster. Ganguly has already spoken about the tournament, the ECB too has acknowledged the discussion that took place earlier this month but Australia is yet to comment on the subject. - PT

CA website honour for Kohli, Dhoni

Melbourne: Virat Kohli has been named captain of the Test XI of the decade by Cricket Australia's official news website, while Mahendra Singh Dhoni was chosen as the leader of its ODI team of the decade. It is not a surprise that Kohli finds himself in both the Test and ODI teams. The 31-year-old has arguably been the best batsman over the last decade. He has already amassed 70 international hundreds and is only behind Ricky Ponting (71) and Sachin Tendulkar (100). The Indian skipper, who aver ages more than 50 in all formats, is also third in the list of leading run-scorers of all time with 21,444 runs, behind Ponting (27.483) and Tendulkar (34,357). Kohli has scored runs all around the world but Australia has been a special place for him, having scored nine hundreds (six in Tests, three in ODIs) Down Under. Kohli is primed to shatter more records, having ended 2019 as the leading run-getter. The others in the Test XI of the decade include Alastair Cook David Warner, Kane Williamson, Steve Smith, AB de Villiers, Ben Stokes, Dale Steyn, Stuart Broad, Nathan Lyon and James Anderson, 'cricket.com.au' posted. – PTI

New beginning After a painful 2019 opener Dhawan is ready to make a fresh start

New Delhi, Dec. 24: Fractured finger, swollen neck, bruised eye and gashed knee, Shikhar Dhawan endured a painful 2019 but the India opener is ready to make a 'fresh start" reminding one and all that his "class is permanent" and he "hasn't forgotten how to bat"

Dhawan, who will be leading Delhi in their Ranji Trophy game against Hyderabad, is back after recovering from a knee injury sustained during the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy, which required 25 stitch-

While he is back in the Indian team, he knows that the road ahead is a bit tricky with KL Rahul in imperious form in white-ball cricket. "This is a fresh start for me. I was hit on the finger, then on the neck, bruised eye and then stitches on the knee. Good news is New Year is coming. I am happy that KL has done so well. He has grabbed the opportunity. So I am going to go and express myself," Dhawan said after finishing his train-

ing session here. One doesn't have control over injuries but the "happy go lucky" 'Gabbar', as he is fondly called, has never been affected by setbacks.

Injuries are natural. You've got to accept that. It's fine and I don't create a big fuss about it. The start-stop thing doesn't affect me as I haven't forgotten how to bat. My class is permanent and I will score runs."

Dhawan accepts that the Sri Lanka T20 series, from which Rohit Sharma is taking a break, will be important for him as all three (him, Rahul and Rohit) are available against

Australia. "This is an important season. I would like to play IO perform well in the T20s against Sri Lanka but the selection is support staff's headache. They will do their job and I will do mine. Looking forward to scoring big runs." The 34-year-old, who played the last of his 34 Tests back in September 2018 against England, is playing a red-ball game after a good 15 months. With Rohit and Mayank Agarwal making the Test slots their own and Prithvi Shaw waiting for his next chance, where does Dhawan fit in?

"Whether I am in Test team or not is immaterial. I know what game I have. I have scored runs in international cricket as well. I am happy to come back and play Ranji. I have grown from the Ranji level and can't be better that I am back here and also imparting knowledge to other kids. Getting into the Test

team will be a challenge but Dhawan say emphatically that he says "shied chalhas never away from lenges

"My goal remains to play all three formats. I am working on that and even now when I passed the fitness test, the first 20 days I couldn't walk. Then I worked on my fitness. It was a deep "So. I always cut. enjoy challenges as l never shy away from them. I never shy away from my failures as well. It's always a learn-

ing experience. And as they say, 'A learning man is always an earning man'," Dhawan said, seeking to lend a unique perspective of his

own. There is a general feeling that India players don't turn up enough in Ranji Trophy but Dhawan feels that it also donoma feels that it also depends on the workload. "If you have played an interna-

tional series, then you need to give him (a player) rest so that he remains fresh. When you play for India, that's the priority. We are humans and not machines, so mentally and physically you need to be fresh.

"An international player knows how much he can stretch his body. There are times you get

emotional and may be Delni and in turn get injured and India assignment gets hampered.' PTI

Opportunity for Shaw, Rahane as Mumbai take on Railways

Mumbai, Dec. 24: Test specialist Ajinkya Rahane and Prithvi Shaw have another opportunity to impress when Mumbai take on Railways in Elite Group B game of the Ranji Trophy, which begins here from Wednesday.

Rahane was exactly not among the runs in the lung opener against Baroda, which the 41-time domestic champions won by 309 runs

Rahane is playing back-to-back Ranji games after a long

time and it would oe a good opportunity for him to get some runs under his belt, especially at his home turf, before he heads for New Zealand with the India A team.

On the other hand, Shaw, who also has been Prithvi Shaw

named in India A squad for the New Zealand tour, has made a strong comeback after serving an eight-month doping ban by slamming a double hundred against Baroda in the lung opener. The talented right-handed opener would be more than keen to carry forward his good form.

Railways, led by leggie Karn Sharma, are coming in to the game after suffering an innings defeat against defending champi-ons Saurashtra. "We have limited players but still we are doing well. We will focus on our game. The wicket at Wankhede is good," said Sharma.

Thoughts of national team call-up make it hard to stay grounded: Suryakumar

Mumbai, Dec. 24: Mumbai batsman Suryakumar Yadav, Mumbai who has been prolific in the shorter formats this year, on uesday admitted that <mark>he thou</mark>ght of a national senior team call-up kept on coming up and it sometimes becomes difficult to stay grounded.

The 29-year-old Yadav, also leading the Mumbai who has been named in the India A squad after Ranji team.



at the same time, you've got to stay in the present. You've got to follow your process, you just can't think of going there. If you do the small things right, which I've been doing lately, that (national team selec-tion) will automatically come," Yadav said.

Asked how difficult it's to stay in the present, he said, "It's a little difficult, because at the back of my mind, I keep thinking that I've got to play for India.



three formats, last played for India during the Test series in West Indies. In the second game in Jamaica, he became only the third Indian to take a Test hat-trick after

Star pacer Bumrah

to prove fitness for national comeback

Surat, Dec. 24: Star India pacer Jasprit

Bumrah's fitness will be tested ahead of

his national comeback when he turns

out for Gujarat in their Ranji Trophy

match against Kerala, beginning here on Wednesday.

Bumrah, who has been out of action

since September due to a stress fracture,

was on Monday named in the India

tively,

month.

selector

Prasad.

India's

bowler

has

veteran off-spinner Harbhajan Singh and pacer Irfan Pathan.

His comeback was expected after he bowled full tilt in a training session ahead of the second ODI against the West Indies in Visakhapatnam last week.

Bumrah has taken 62 Test wickets in 12 games at 19.24 besides 103 and 51 scalps in ODIs and T20s respectively at 21.88

Shikhar Dhawan

seven years for the upcom ing tour of New Zealand, is to play for India. However the present."

Yes, my ultimate goal is However, I have to stay in

Shikhar, Ishant presence bolsters under-fire Delhi against Hyderabad

New Delhi, Dec. 24: Bolstered by the presence of impact top-order batsman Shikhar Dhawan and intimidating pacer Ishant Sharma, a beleaguered Delhi will look to turn things around when they take on Hyderabad in their Ranji Trophy group A encounter. Delhi managed to get

just one point from their game against Kerala before enduring an outright defeat against Andhra Pradesh But Hyderabad also exactly haven't set the stage on fire. They are also smarting from two outright defeats. From the first two groups (A and B), the top five teams

will go into the quarterfinals. After two rounds,

Delhi are placed 12th among 17 teams and Hyderabad are languishing at the bottom. Having performed belowpar in all departments, the onus will certainly be on the two seasoned internationals who have been there and done that umpteen times at this very ground in the past.

-PTI

Kiwis look to Boult in rare Boxing Day Test

Melbourne, Dec. 24: New Zealand are hopeful of having pace spearhead Trent Boult back to help halt a rampant Australia in the Black Caps' first Boxing Day Test at the Melbourne Cricket Ground in more than 30 years.

The veteran, suffering a side strain, was badly missed during the opening Test in Perth, when the visitors were thrashed by 296 runs in stifling conditions. But he has been toiling in the nets and expects to be ready for a rare appearance by his country on one of the best-known dates of the cricket calendar

'I want to really embrace it and appreciate that stage for what it is," the leftarmer told reporters of the special atmosphere that comes with a Boxing Day Test in the 100,000-capacity arena.

"This is the stage that a lot of people dream of being on so to get this opportunity in my career, it's definitely something that I'm looking forward to.

"If I can tick all the right boxes with my body and get

Million-dollar IPL deal will not change me: Pat

Melbourne, Dec. 24: Pat Cummins is still trying to figure out what will he do with a whopping ₹15.5 crore (\$2.17 million) after becoming the costliest ever overseas buy in IPL history but the Australian pacer is confident that the

impending windfall will not change him as a person. Cummins was last week

grabbed by Kolkata Knight Riders as he left

myself fit, then I can't wait to get out there," he added. A big crowd is expected with New Zealand fans snapping up thousands of tickets to witness the December 26 appearance by their team at one of cricket's most famous grounds.

Extra flights were reportedly scheduled between Auckland and Melbourne to cater for demand. The last time New Zealand faced Australia in a Boxing Day Test was 1987, before many of the current squad were

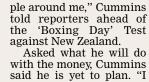


compatriot my best not to change.

Lucky, I have got good peoborn, with the home side holding on for a draw despite blistering bowling legendary quick from Richard Hadlee. What sort of wicket they

find on Thursday is the great unknown. Only a fortnight ago, play

was abandoned during a domestic Sheffield Shield game at the ground due to a dangerous pitch, with erratic bounce seeing balls rise sharply and unexpectedly to pummel the bats-



don't know [what to do

with the money]. My girl-

Pat Cummins

Glenn friend... the first thing she Maxwell (Kings XI Punjab) a distant second said was 'we can buy the dog a couple more toys now'. She has got her pri-orities sorted," Cummins at ₹10.75 crore. "I will try

> Australia go into the sec-ond of three Tests without bowling kingpin Josh Hazlewood who was injured in Perth.

said in jest.

James Pattinson is set to replace him as the third quick alongside Cummins and Starc, who has been lethal this summer.

-PTI

"James, we know what he brings to the team — he brings so much energy, bowls good pace, he's played a lot at the MCG," coach Langer said. - AFP



South Africa seek happy end to unforgettable year

Centurion, Dec. 24: South Africa will seek a happy end to what has been a miserable year for the country's cricket team when they play England in the first match of a World Test Championship series, starting at SuperSport Park on Thursday. They will be playing at a

ground which has been a fortress for the hosts, where they have won 19 of 24 Tests. England, though, have bucked the trend, being involved in four of the five methods at the the five matches at the ground which have not ended in victory for South Africa — a win, albeit in contrived circumstances, and three draws. Only once have South

Africa come out on top against their oldest foes at Centurion, on England's previous tour four years when Kagiso Rabada, then aged 20, had match figures dead rubber game, with England having already won the series. It is not only at Centurion where England have enjoyed suc-

Only once have **South Africa come** out on top against their oldest foes at Centurion, on **England's previous** tour four years when Rabada, then aged 20, had match figures of 13/144.

cess in South Africa. Cheered on by large groups of travelling supporters, they won series in 2004/05 and 2015/16 and shared the honours in 2009/10.

South Africa have not vanquished England at home since 1999/2000, when they had already secured the series before Hansie Cronje persuaded Nasser Hussain to seek a one-innings result after three full days had been lost to rain.

It was later revealed that Cronje, who was eventually banned after a corruption scandal, had been in contact with a bookmaker. - AFP



Tebas triumphs

Javier Tebas wins the Spanish league presidential elections for a third time, will remain in the office for another four years



WEDNESDAY | 25 DECEMBER 2019 | NEW DELHI

Moscow, Dec. 24: The Russian Olympic

Committee said Tuesday it

expected that Russian ath-

letes would take part in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics Games under the national flag despite a four-year

The Russian Olympic

Committee is a rightful member of the Olympic movement," its president Stanislav Pozdnyakov told

reporters after a meeting.

reason to believe that we

will put together a team for

Tokyo and do everything in our power for this team to

perform under the Russian tricolour," he added.

The World Anti-Doping Agency on December 10 banned Russia for four years from major global

events, including the 2020

Tokyo Olympics and the 2022 World Cup in Qatar,

over manipulated doping

data. WADA accused Moscow

of falsifying data from a

doping testing laboratory

that was handed over to

investigators earlier this

Russia has said it would

contest the ban, with President Vladimir Putin

slamming the sanctions as

politically motivated. Speaking on Tuesday, Pozdnyakov confirmed

that the Russian Olympic

Committee would support

the decision of its supervi-sory board to defy the

vear.

Therefore we have every

doping ban.

Russians hope to

play for the flag

The Russian

expected that

Russian athletes

the 2020 Tokyo

Olympics Games

under the national

flag despite a fouryear doping ban. Russia has said it

would contest the

Vladimir Putin

slamming the

sanctions.

WADA ban.

ban, with President

Last week RUSADA anti-

doping agency said it had

"made a decision not to

agree" with the four-year

ban by the World Anti-

Doping Agency's decision.

The decision will have to

be communicated to WADA before the end of

the month, triggering the

appeal process in the

Lausanne-based Court of Arbitration for Sport. Under the sanctions,

Russian sportsmen and

women will still be allowed

to compete at the Olympics

next year and the 2022

Beijing Winter Olympics, but only as neutrals and if

they can demonstrate that

they were not part of what

WADA believes was a state-

sponsored system of dop-ing -AFP

would take part in

Olympic Committee

Games



We gutted it out, we played our backs off and gave ourselves a chance to win in the end. — Kyle Lowry, Basketball player of Toranto Raptors after their win

SHORT TAKES Lachini is the new

Fiorentina boss

Milan: Struggling Serie 'A' side Fiorentina named Giuseppe Lachini, a seasoned professional well-known on the Italian coaching circuit, as their new manager on Monday to replace Vincenzo Montella, who was fired at the weekend. The 55-year-old old has led four different clubs out of Serie 'B' into the top flight, although he has never coached any of Italy's biggest clubs or won a major title. Montella, who was in charge for eight months, was sacked on Saturday after a 4-1 home defeat by AS Roma which extended Fiorentina's winless run to seven matches and left them 15th in Serie 'A' with 17 points, three clear of the relegation zone. "The current situation in the table forced us to change the coach," said Rocco Commisso, the club's billionaire U.S.-born owner. "We chose lachini because he is a great man. Now we have to stick together and get back on the right track". lachini won promotion to Serie 'A' with Chievo in 2008, Brescia in 2010, Sampdoria in 2012 and Palermo in 2014 and has also coached Venezia, Cesena, Vicenza, Piacenza, Siena, Udinese and Sassuolo. – Reuters

Greek referees continue strike

Athens: Greek Super League referees announced on Monday they were bringing forward their strike action by a week to January 4-5 in protest at the latest assault on one of their number. Hooligans armed with fire-

crackers attacked the home of one of the match officials in charge of the Volos-Olympiakos scoreless draw on Sunday. The Greek football federation strongly condemned "the new, mafia-type attack on a Super League referee'



Jamal Murrav (second from right) of the Denver Nuggets puts up a shot over Aron Baynes of the Phoenix Suns during the final moments of their NBA game at Talking Stick Resort Arena in Phoenix, Arizona, on Monday. The Nuggets defeated the Suns 113-111.

Pacers edge Raptors

Aaron, Myles, Warren help Indiana triumph

FPEN VODKA LOUNGE

Los Angeles, Dec. 24: Aaron Holiday finished with 19 points and made two clutch three-pointers in overtime as the Indiana snapped the Pacers Toronto Raptors five-game winning streak with a 120-115 win on Monday.

Myles Turner and TJ Warren also had 24 points each, and Holiday added 10 assists in the win over injury-depleted Raptors who were coming off their biggest come-back win in franchise his-

tory. "It's a big win for us," said Holiday, who finished with 19 points in getting the start at point guard for the injured Malcolm the injured Brogdon.

"It's fun playing with emotion, especially in big games.

Kyle Lowry had 30 points and nine assists for Toronto, who defeated the **Glasgow, Dec. 24:** Rangers manager Steven Gerrard has urged Scottish football authorities to make a severe example" of bottle-

they are serious about protecting players. Gers left-back Borna Barisic only narrowly escaped a potentially serious injury during a win away to Hibernian on Friday when a glass bottle was hurled at him from the Easter Road stands.

This was not the first time the Edinburgh club's East Stand has provided the backdrop for a violent incident. Rangers captain James Tavernier was confronted pitch invader in March, just a week after a races. glass bottle was thrown at Celtic winger Scott Sinclair. Gerrard believes the repeat nature of these incidents has only increased the likelihood for further attacks, with the former Liverpool and England midfielder saying now was the time for stern measures. "It's a crazy decision to throw a bottle onto a football pitch," Gerrard said. to book". The damage you could do is unthinkable.

It's a crazy decision to throw a bottle onto a football pitch. The damage you could do is unthinkable. If the punishment isn't seve

throwing supporters if

ing.



PAGE

Olympiakos protested about "bad officiating" and filed a lawsuit against the five refer ees, charging them with

bribery The Piraeus club have also sent protest letters to football governing bodies UEFA and FIFA, claiming "a deliberate and surgically precise alteration of the outcome of a match in which VAR was used". The Greek federation has suspended the five officials pending the outcome of their investigation.

'The implementation of the VAR system in the match was undoubtedly below expectations," the federation said. — AFF

ROWERS, **WIGAN PLAY OUT A DRAW**

London: Blackburn Rovers missed a chance to narrow the gap to the England Championship play-off places with a goalless draw at home to Wigan on Monday where the greater concern was a worrying injury to Bradley Dack. Rovers' leading scorer this returned from suspension to make his 250th appearance for Rovers in this all-Lancashire clash but Dack's match ended in the 65th minute when he was left clutching his knee after landing awkwardly. He was then taken off the field on a stretcher after several minutes' treatment. Victory would have seen Rovers go level on points with sixth-placed Brentford - the top two at the end of the regular season gain automatic entry into the lucrative Premier League with the other promotion place decided by a series of play-off matches involving the next four clubs. Tony Mowbray's side came close to a goal, Danny Graham's header hitting the woodwork in the second half before Lewis Holtby was denied in stoppage time. Blackburn's former Wigan goalkeeper Christian Walton made two good saves. - AFP

Danas Mavericks on Sunday after trailing by 30 points in the third quar-

ter. "We gutted it out, we played our butts off and gave ourselves a chance to win at the end," Lowry said of the Raptors.

But the Raptors, who were missing several starters, ran out of gas on Monday in front of the crowd of 17,100 at Bankers Life Fieldhouse arena in Indianapolis.

This time, Toronto was forced to come back from a 15-point deficit but couldn't pull out the victory.

Sabonis Domantas scored 12 points and grabbed 17 rebounds for Indiana. Jeremy Lamb and TJ McConnell both had 12 points. Lamb missed the two previous games with a groin problem.

gave Indiana a three-point Serge Ibaka had 23 points and nine rebounds, lead with just over two minutes left in overtime. VanVleet contributed 21 points and 11 He made another threeassists, and OG Anunoby scored 15 points and 12 rebounds for Toronto. point dagger with 54 seconds left to increase the lead to four.

This was the first meet-The Pacers got three-

Jamal Murray (right) of the Denver Nuggets looks to pass guarded by Ricky Rubio of the Phoenix Suns during the first half of the NBA game at Talking Stick Resort Arena in Phoenix, Arizona, on Monday. – AFF

pointers from Holiday and ing between the teams this season after Toronto won Warren to lead by two with 41 seconds remaintwo of three from Indiana ing in regulation. Lowrv's last season. layup tied it 107-107 with The Pacers beat the visit-

34 seconds left. Lowry ing Raptors 110-106 on then took the final long January 23 in the final shot of regulation but missed badly. Holiday's three-pointer meeting, which saw Indiana star Victor Oladipo suffer a serious meeting, knee injury in the second quarter. Oladipo has yet to play this season as he is still rehabbing that injury. The Raptors are playing without key injured players, comprising Pascal Siakam (groin), Marc

Gasol (hamstring) and Norman Powell (shoulder). Elsewhere.

Ben Simmons notched a tripledouble, and Philadelphia 76ers handed the host Detroit Pistons their fifth straight loss 125-109. Tobias Harris made 14 of

21 field goal attempts, including four three-pointers and finished with 35 points. Simmons tallied 16 points, 13 rebounds and 17 assists in the win. Furkan Korkmaz came

off the bench to score 21 points, and Joel Embiid had 20 points and eight rebounds for the Sixers. who shot 54 percent from

the field. Pistons star Andre Drummond was not in the starting lineup. But he came off the bench and scored a team-high 27 points with nine rebounds

and three assists. Blake Griffin shot twofor-14 from the field and scored eight points in the loss as the Pistons trailed 60-52 at halftime. -AFP

"If the punishment isn't severe enough then people will continue to make bad decisions from the terraces.

"There needs to be an example set — a severe one – and then that will make people think and things will improve. But it does seem like we're going backwards rather than forwards.

Meanwhile Hibernian said later Monday they had passed footage of four men

enough then people will continue to make bad decisions from the ter-



throwing missiles last Friday to the police. A club statement added

'those who misbehave should know we will leave no stone unturned to identify them and bring them

Victory over Hibs left second-placed Rangers five points behind arch-rivals Celtic. the reigning Premiership Scottish champions.

Celtic, however, have played a game more than Rangers.

Gerrard's men will look to cut that deficit further at home to Kilmarnock on Boxing Day before travelling across Glasgow to Parkhead for an Old Firm derby against Celtic on Sunday.

-AFP

Indian shooters leave their mark in 2019 season

three bronze as India topped all the Rifle-Pistol New Delhi, Dec. 24: Hitting the target with monoto-World Cups and Finals nous regularity, Indian shooters' dominance in a this year. phenomenal 2019, at times, The number of Olympic

like domestic tourneys. at a record 15, is not a only At the forefront of the refection of the country's incredible showing was an rapid rise in the sport over extremely talented youth brigade that knew no fear. the last one year but also sets up the shooters nicely Some of them studied for a record haul in Tokyo hard, did their homework, Olympics, after the meltdown at Rio de Janeiro. Indian shooting's best show at the Olympics appeared for exams, practised harder and then shot, to win. While some domiremains the two medals nated the range first and won at London in 2012, but wrote their papers later. And then, they were back if the shooters' exploits in

at the range again, working on their game to continue what has been an unprecedented upswing. terms of overall

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medals, the tally stood at 21 gold, six silver and an unpleasant experience in Rio, is far from basking

in its shooters' glory yet. Impressed the association is with the performance that may have exceeded expectations but, instead of celebrating, it is looking at ways to protect them from "exploitation and distractions'

That called for taking some very tough decisions, including banning the shooters from signing any fresh commercial deals in the run-up to the Olympic Games, a move that may not have found favours with many.

Besides the shooters, the federation has also worked extensively well towards bringing the sport to where it is today.

-PTI



Indian shooters (from left) Anjum Modgil, Mehuli Ghosh and Apurvi Chandela in this file photo.









recent months are any-thing to go by, the country can easily emulate or bet-

However, the National

Rifle Association of India

(NRAI), having endured

ter that in Tokyo.

made world events look quotas, which now stands



No warm-up

US Open champion Bianca Andreescu pulls out of her Australian Open warm-up tournament the Auckland WTA Classic with a knee injury



THE ASIAN AGE

WEDNESDAY | 25 DECEMBER 2019 | NEW DELHI



anywhere, he can play the whole midfield – Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, Manchester United manager on Paul Pogba after he returned from a long injury lay-off



Tapi wins Delhi feature race

AGE CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, DEC. 24

Tapi won the December Plate. the feature event at the Delhi races on Tuesday. RESULTS 1st race: The Christmas Tree Plate Div-I (1000 mts) 1. Race Ka Raja, 2. Autumn Gold, 3. Darjeeling

2nd race: The Christamas Tree Plate Div-II (1000 mts) 1. Miss Zachary, 2. Venum, 3. Mr Stunning

3rd race: The Winter Plate (1600 mts) 1. Golden Magic, 2. Udaan, 3. Walk On Brave

4th race: The December Plate (1100 mts) 1. Tapi, 2. Ashwa Jagira, 3. Master Critiano

5th race: The Christmas Cup Div-I (1100 mts) 1. Conquering Bid, 2. Hot Blood, 3. Acker Bilk

> 6th race: The Christmas Cup Div-II (1100 mts) 1. Marks Man, 2. Solarium, 3. Golden Guinea

Big boost in Aus Open prize money

Melbourne: Big pay rises are in store for players at January's Australian Open with organisers Tuesday announcing a 13.6 percent boost in the total purse to Aus\$71 million (US\$49.1 million). The winners of the men's and women's titles at the first Grand Slam of the year will both take home Aus\$4.12 mil-lion, only a small increase from a year ago. But players beaten in earlier rounds do much better. Anyone crashing out in round one will receive Aus\$90,000, up 20 percent.

while second round players get a 21.9 percent hike to Aus\$128.000. Tournament director Craig Tiley said every round would enjoy double digit percentage increases, bar the finalists. Prize money has increased 61.4 percent over the last five years, broadly in line with other the Grand Slams. The Australian Open gets underway at Melbourne Park on January 20. – AFP



All eyes on Liverpool **Reds face Vardy threat on festive return to EPL**

London, Dec. 24: Liverpool, newly crowned Club World Cup winners, return to their main task fighting for their first league title in 30 years when they face their clos-est challengers Leicester City on Thursday. The Boxing Day clash of the top-two, at Leicester's King Power stadium, headlines a full programme of festive fixtures and despite Leicester's 3-1 reverse at Manchester City on Saturday, Liverpool boss Juergen Klopp is aware of the dan-gers that his side face. Leicester manager Brendan Rodgers, who was replaced by Klopp at Anfield, has built a team

home to Newcastle United, a game which could see Paul Pogba return to the starting line-

who had been out with an injury since ankle September, came on as a substitute at Watford but could start against Steve Bruce's side.

midfielder in the world,' said United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer, who admits that it can be tricky to designate a precise midfield duty for the former Juventus player.

POGBA HAILED AS 'BEST ELDEK

London, Dec. 24: Paul Pogba has been hailed as the "best midfielder in the world" by Manchester United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer after the Frenchman returned from a long injury lay-off. The World Cup winner was in action for United

for the first time since late September as a substitute in their chastening 2-0 defeat at Watford on Sunday He could be in the starting team against Newcastle on Thursday as Solskjaer desperately seeks the creativity the team needs to break down stubborn opposition defences. "Let's see how he reacts to this, how he

feels," said Solskjaer. "He did really well when he came on. Big, big plus and it might be that we do get him in from the start." Pogba, who had only layed twice since the end of August due to an ankle injury, was introduced on Sunday with United already trailing by two goals and went close to scoring during a late attacking flurry from the visitors.

Pogba, who had only played twice since the end of August due to an ankle injury, was intro-duced on Sunday with United already trailing by two goals and went close to scoring during a late attacking flurry from the visitors

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"He can play anywhere, he can play the whole mid-field," said Solskjaer.

"He's a box-to-box mid-fielder. He can drop deep, get it, play long passes. He can get it higher up and combine like he did today.'

"That's the beauty of having Paul, because he is the best all-round midfielder in the world," added the United boss, who has said the 26-yearold will not be leaving in the January transfer window despite links with Real Madrid. Solskjaer said he was looking for a reaction from his players against Newcastle after United again failed to turn dominance of possession into a positive result at Watford -AFP

Liverpool defenders Virgil van Dijk (left) and Andrew Robertson share a light moment er with 17 goals. "We will try (to stop during their training at Anfield on Tuesday. avoid the passes to him added the German. and that's what we'll try. Klopp will need to draw on his strength in depth "But Leicester is not only Jamie Vardy. given that midfielder Alex Brendan has done an Oxlade-Chamberlain sufexcellent job there and fered an ankle injury in the extra-time win over they're a proper top class team. The quality they have is exceptional," Flamengo in the Club World Cup final in Qatar.

up. The French midfielder,

"He is the best all-round

"He can perform all roles, but if I play him low, (some people will say] he should have played high and, if I play him high, I should have played low. There's always going to be that discussion with him. But it's great to have him hack "he said

Two clubs will have new managers in charge for - LIVERPOOL

ATK'S UNBEATEN HOME RUN AT RISK AGAINST BFC

Kolkata: They have been in tremendous form but maintaining their unbeaten run at home will not be easy when former champions ATK face defending champions Bengaluru FC in an Indian Super League match here on Wednesday. The Kolkata franchise has scored the most goals – 10 – at the Saltlake Stadium and their defence too has been at their resolute best but their record will be put to test against Carles Cuadrat's Bengaluru FC who are unbeaten away this season. Third-placed ATK who are a point behind the Blues (16 points) are smarting after a loss to FC Goa and a disappointing 2-2 draw against bottomplaced Hyderabad FC. Terming Bengaluru FC, as the best team of the season, coach Antonio Habas said, "For us it's a very important match. We can know our level by playing against last season's champions. It's very important for me and my players." Roy Krishna is ATK's primary weapon up front with eight goals to his name - five of them coming in their last four outings With the likes of David

Williams, Javi Hernandez, Mandi Sosa and Edu Garcia in the line-up, Krishna will be confident of getting good support. Head to head, Bengaluru have a great record having won all four games. In fact, ATK have scored just one goal past Bengaluru in those matches. Bengaluru's defence has been exemplary this season as well, having conceded just five goals in nine matches. - PT

Vardy). He's a massive striker, an exceptional striker. One of the top three since I've been in England," said Klopp. "He's difficult to defend, always on the shoulder ... Playing the offside line, really dangerous. The only thing you can do is

that has won as many games as Pep Guardiola's

City, 12 out of 18. They

have lost just three times

and in Jamie Vardy they

have the league's top scor-

With Dejan Lovren, Joel Matip and Brazilian Fabinho all sidelined, Joe Gomez is likely to partner Virgil van Dijk in the center of defence. Manchester United, smarting from their defeat at Watford on Sunday, are

the first time with Mikel Arteta's Arsenal at struggling Bournemouth and Carlo Ancelotti taking the reigns of Everton at home to Burnley.

Thirdplaced Manchester City face a tough trip to Wolves on Friday. — Reuters

SENIOR AND JUNIOR

Paire, Karlovic to return; Philipp ready for debut

Pune, Dec. 24: Stylish Frenchman and world number 24 Benoit Paire will headline the field at the Tata Open Maharashtra but South African Kevin Anderson will not return to defend his title at India's only ATP 250 event, starting February 3. Last edition's runner-

up Ivo Karlovic will return for the third edition of the tournament, which has now been shifted to first week of February instead of being a season-opener. With the ATP reshuf-

fling calendar to accommodate the ATP Cup. which is happening for the first time, the tournament will now be held after the Australian Open.

Wimbledon Former quarterfinalist with a career-high rank of 16, Germany's Philipp Kohlschreiber will make his debut at the event. The 30-year-old Paire,

who touched a careerhigh ranking of 18 in 2016 and won two ATP titles in 2018, had reached the quarter-finals in the previous edition.

Paire has been in sizzling form in 2019, winning titles at Lyon and Marrakech. Kohlschreiber, who has eight ATP tour titles

spread over three different surfaces, had upset world number one Novak

TATA OPEN MAHARASHTRA



Last edition's runner-up Ivo Karlovic will be in quest for the title at the third edition of the Tata Open Maharashtra as the event kicks off from February 3.

Djokovic at the Indian to roll out yet another memorable edition of Wells Masters this year. "This is a very special thrilling tennis action," edition when we are celesaid Prashant Sutar, the brating 25 years of ATP tournament director. Czech Republic's Jiri Tour in India. The tour-Vesely who upset world nament has always had a rich legacy of champinumber five Alexander ons playing here and the Zverev at Wimbledon

FED CUP TENNIS **SANIA RETURNS TO INDIAN TEAM AFTER 4 YEARS**

New Delhi, Dec. 24: Doubles star Sania Mirza on Tuesday returned to the Indian Fed Cup team after four years as she was named in the five-member squad, which features country's top singles player Ankita Raina.

Sania last played Fed Cup in 2016 and has been out of action since October 2017 as she took a two-year break to start a family.

Riya Bhatia (379), Rutuja Bhosale (466) and Karman Kaur Thandi (568) also figured in the squad. Ranked 180 in the WTA singles chart, Ankita is way above her compatriots.

Former Davis Cupper Vishal Uppal will be the captain of the side while former Fed Cupper Ankita Bhambri has been named the coach of the side, which will have Sowjanya Bavisetti as the reserve player. Sania is making a comeback at Hobart International with Ukraine's Nadiia Kichenok, the current world number 38.

Before her sabbatical, Sania won six doubles Grand Slam titles including three mixed achieved the number one rank, won medals at multi-disciplinary events apart from laying hands on a year-end WTA Finale title with Swiss great Martina Hingis. -PTl

Dec. Games

The 17-year-old Bhaker, representing Haryana, clinched four gold medals (individual and team events in senior and junior) on Tuesday to add to her two won earlier in the competition and also equalled the qualification national record en-route a facile victory.



SHOOTING NATIONALS

Bhopal, Commonwealth champions Manu Bhaker and Anish Bhanwala swept the senior and junior gold medals in the women's 10m air pistol and men's 25m rapid fire pistol events at the National Shooting Championships here on Tuesday.



Her state-mate Anish, also 17, won both the individual and team gold medals in the senior and junior men's categories of his event to stamp his dominance. Bhaker, who has also won India one of its 15 Tokyo Olympics quota

berths, shot 588 to top qualifications and equal the record set by Annu Raj Singh in the South Asian Games. She then shot a 243 to emerge triumphant in the eight-woman final.

Devanshi Dhama was way back with 237.8 and another Tokyo quota winner Yashaswini Singh Deswal won bronze with 217.7.

Bhanwala shot 28 in the rapid fire final to leave behind Bhavesh Shekhawat of Rajasthan who ended with 26 while Chandigarh's Vijayveer Sidhu came third with 22 hits.

Bhanwala had also topped the qualifying with a score of 582. -PTI



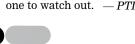
Manu Bhaker (centre) poses on the podium with her gold medal.





silver jubilee year will be

no different as we hope



this year would be the





