

Is a new India rising?

The new generation is laying down its own terms for the country’s future discourse



The tsunami of protests across the length and breadth of the country has several fascinating facets. Are there any significant pointers in it?

First and foremost, these are clearly the civil society’s autonomous protests, devoid of any organic links with any political party. Barring issuing some statements in support or occasional visits by leaders to a protest site, even political parties have kept themselves at a distance from these protests. Underlying the autonomy is perhaps an unarticulated feeling that the issues evoking the protests go beyond electoral battles; that these concern the very life and blood of society’s future. There is also an unarticulated assumption that the solution lies beyond the ken of one or the other political party or indeed all parties together. Therefore, reliance on a party or a group, any group, might end up in diversion, which often becomes equivalent of betrayal. The one possible link with political parties is perhaps a potential realisation by them that they might be left aside by the people if they keep the distance intact – a case of people leading the parties instead of the other way round.

The power of resistance

A consequence of civil society’s direct involvement is that it is refusing to buy the current regime’s divisive Hindu-Muslim formula. This formula has already fetched the National Democratic Alliance two terms in Parliament but seems to have hit a wall. Resistance began with society’s response to uncalled-for police brutality on students in Jamia Millia Islamia and Aligarh Muslim University. And soon the chief target of resistance became the Citizenship Amendment Act-National Register of Citizens-National Population Register strategy devised by the regime to pit the Muslim community against the rest. The wide-ranging and unrelenting participation of people from all groups in the protests is clear enough signal of society’s refusal to fall for it. Interest-



“The conflict is no longer between the BJP and the Opposition parties’ vote banks; it is now firmly situated between the BJP government and the people of India.” Students of Jamia Millia Islamia stage a candlelight vigil against the CAA-NPR-NRC at Shaheen Bagh in New Delhi on January 3. •PTI

ing also is the Muslim community’s refusal to fall for the strategy of making their identity dichotomous with their Indian identity; the Muslims have instead sought to assert their religious identity in full concert with their Indian national identity by flaunting both at the same time, which in any case is far truer than the one which counterposes the two.

The resistance from the students is an amazing aspect even as it is wise to remind ourselves that their community has been the most energetic element in India’s various resistance movements – and for that matter elsewhere around the world, whether in the anti-colonial struggles in Asia, Africa and Latin America, or the anti-Vietnam war protests in the U.S. Their protests have also grown in dimensions from repression in universities to the regime’s hitherto successful Divide and Rule policy and its latest version encapsulated in the CAA-NRC-NPR. Neither has the government’s incessant attempts to convince them of the honesty of its

purpose, which could also be called brainwashing, failed to persuade them, nor has the repeated assertion by Home Minister Amit Shah of not budging an inch deterred them.

One of the most vociferous charges made against the government has been its grave attempt to prevent students and others from questioning it by simply branding such people as “anti-nationals” of which various equivalents have been newly minted: “anti-Modi”, “anti-Hindu”, “Urban Naxal”. The government has also unleashed a barrage of filthy abuse and threats on social media through a highly organised IT machine under the BJP’s control. A good segment of the media – now being called ‘Modia’ – has also pitched in with its aggressive campaign of malice against anyone with the mildest of doubts against the government’s extravagant claims.

Yet, all this could not crush the spirit of questioning, especially on campuses, repression notwithstanding. The examples are now beyond

count: there are protests in Hyderabad University, Jadavpur University, Banaras Hindu University, the Indian Institutes of Technology, Aligarh Muslim University, Jamia Millia Islamia, Delhi University and even in some of the safe and secure private universities. Jawaharlal Nehru University is an outstanding instance of standing up to repression for over four years now. Repression in any case is not the most durable of all forms of governance; this is one of history’s abiding lessons. The wider society is waking up to the limits of repression as state policy and responding.

Quality of leadership

One of the most endearing aspects of the current wave of protests is the exemplary quality of leadership displayed by students from the underprivileged social strata. Kanhaiya Kumar has become a national figure thanks largely to the Modi government’s atrocious handling of his “crime” which enabled him to demonstrate his extraordinary oratorical skill and his clear-headed perspectives to put forward his case with almost devastating ease. It is fascinating that the extempore slogan he raised on the JNU campus for “azadi” on his release from jail in 2016 has now become the national war cry for students and the youth. But he is one among innumerable other emerging leaders of student movements across the country. It is heartwarming to see young women taking up verbal, and now even physical, challenges to articulate their feelings and thoughts lucidly, fearlessly and forcefully. JNU Students’ Union president Aishe Ghosh has once again occupied premier space on this front, thanks again to the mishandling by the Modi regime. One also comes across a large number of such promising student leaders on local channels speaking in their local language. This is where one sees promise of a new generation refusing to buy any “line” of any party but laying down its own terms for the country’s future discourse. The conflict is no longer between the BJP and the Opposition parties’ vote banks; it is now firmly situated between the BJP government and the people of India.

Harbans Mukhia retired as Professor of Medieval History from JNU

In the name of self-defence

The U.S. strike in Iraq that killed Soleimani was in violation of UN norms proscribing such unilateral use of force



JAY MANOJ SANKLECHA

The killing of Iranian General Qassem Soleimani near Baghdad in drone strikes carried out by the U.S. earlier in January raised the spectre of war in West Asia. Later, U.S. President Donald Trump threatened to attack cultural sites in Iran in the event of reprisals by Tehran. The next week, Iran retaliated by carrying out missile attacks on two facilities housing U.S. troops in Iraq. These incidents give rise to some interesting legal questions: Was the U.S. attack on Soleimani legally justified? And can cultural sites be legitimately attacked in any armed U.S. response?

Under international law, there is a general prohibition on the use of force, articulated in Article 2(4) of the UN Charter. The Article proscribes any use of force by members against the “territorial integrity or political independence” of a state. However, the Charter recognises two limited exceptions: first, in the use of force by a state in the lawful exercise of its right to self-defence; and second, when such an act is carried out with the prior authorisation of the UN Security Council (UNSC) and acting pursuant to the Council’s emergency powers “to maintain or restore international peace and security”.

Without prior consent

The use of force by the U.S. in Baghdad to kill Soleimani without prior consent from Iraq or the UN was, hence, a violation of such proscription, unless the U.S. can justify it as a lawful exercise of its right to self-defence. Not surprisingly, the Donald Trump administration was quick to claim that the killing was in exercise of its right to “anticipatory” self-defence. Mr. Trump claimed, without any further elaboration, that Soleimani was planning “imminent and sinister” attacks against U.S. diplomats and personnel.

The legal basis for “anticipatory” self-defence remains deeply controversial and contested. There are both legal and policy arguments against recognising a right to anticipatory self-defence. First, Article 51 of the UN Charter recognises the inherent right of every state to use force in self-defence, only “if an armed attack occurs”. Second, unlike an “armed attack”, which is an objective standard, an “anticipated” armed attack is a subjective one, open to abuse by states. Since the object and purpose of the general prohibition on the use of force is to minimise

resort to unilateral use of force, a stricter and restricted notion of the right to self-defence is perhaps more appropriate.

Those arguing in favour of a right to anticipatory self-defence, however, stress on its customary character and frequently reference the *Caroline* incident. In 1837, British militia from Canada crossed into U.S. to set ablaze the ship *Caroline*, which had been used to ferry American insurgents that had mounted attacks in Canada. In diplomatic correspondence following the incident, the U.S. Secretary of State noted that Britain must show “a necessity of self-defence, instant, overwhelming, leaving no choice of means, and no moment of deliberation”. In reality, the destruction of *Caroline* was a response to an attack and its expansion rather than for averting any not-yet-mounted attack. Moreover, the incident took place before the conception of the UN Charter.

An anticipatory move

Nevertheless, contemporary Western scholarship, in view of the rise of terrorism and advancement of weapons technology, continues to advocate for a right to anticipatory self-defence. However even assuming that any such right has come into fruition, its contours are to be narrowly understood. As indicated, the threat of an armed attack must be so imminent that the need to act in self-defence should be “instant, overwhelming, leaving no choice of means, and no moment of deliberation”. The legality of the Trump administration’s decision to target Soleimani through drones in Iraq would, therefore, hinge on the disclosure of facts with regard to the imminence of a planned attack. Moreover, the administration will have to show that the strike was proportional to such (imminent) armed attack and necessary to respond to it. It will also have to justify its use of force in Iraqi territory and prove that Baghdad was either unable or unwilling to prevent the imminent attack. Finally, the U.S. will have to provide an explanation for the use of drones during peacetime, which resulted in collateral casualties.

Further, Mr. Trump’s specific threat to target cultural sites in Iran was in breach of the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property during armed conflict. It also violated UNSC Council Resolution 2347, sponsored by the Trump administration, which in the context of the Islamic State (IS) invasion declared that destruction of cultural property would constitute “war crimes”. It was therefore not surprising that Pentagon distanced itself from Mr. Trump’s position.

Jay Manoj Sanklecha is a lawyer specialising in international law

Protest is at the core of poetry

In poetry, dissent does not mean only raising your voice but also creating new forms of expression

KUNAL RAY

IIT-Kanpur was recently at the centre of a controversy over “*Hum Dekhenge*”, a popular Urdu *nazm*, or poem, written by Faiz Ahmed Faiz. The poem was recited by a group of students on campus during an agitation. This enraged many others, including a faculty member, who found the *nazm* offending their religious sentiments. Few cared to understand Faiz’s poem in context. In the ongoing protests surrounding the Citizenship Amendment Act and the National Register of Citizens, there have been several occasions when protesters have chanted the poems of Goraakh Pandey, Vaidyanath Mishra (Nagarjun), Dushyant Kumar and Gajanan Madhav Mukhtibodh, to name a few.

Renowned Bengali poet Joy Goswami wrote a poem in support of JNU students who were brutally beaten up on campus. It went viral on social media. Goswami ends his poem with a lament that silence is akin to mass slaughter. Recently, an installation with Miya poetry (written by Bengali-origin Muslims) from Assam was removed from an art festival in Goa. Martin Niemöller’s “First they came” is another poem that has gained wide currency in these protests. There are many names that could join the list including Langston Hughes, Maya Angelou and Adrienne Rich. The ongoing protests perhaps endeared many more people to poetry, who discovered its subversive character.

Understanding poetry

That begs the question: why do so many people appear to be scared of poetry? Weren’t we always told that poetry is about emotions recollected in tranquillity and the gentle expression of sentiments? Or about beauty, which ought to be desired and cherished, about daffodils and nightingales that are far removed from many from their immediate contexts? Sometimes, in childhood, it felt like a conspiracy to equate the ornate or the decorative with the poetic as if the only purpose of poetry were to soothe agitated souls and offer relief from the vagaries of life.

Reflecting upon this narrative about poetry in my childhood, I am

filled with outrage. Only later, when I began to read and understand poetry on my own terms, did I realise that dissent or protest is at the core of poetry. Poetry has always been anti-hegemonic. Dissent, however, must be broadly understood in this context. It could surely mean raising your voice against oppressive powers or ills that prevail in the social structure. In poetry, or any art form for that matter, dissent or protest could also be interpreted as breaking boundaries, creating new forms, genres and vocabulary of expression and thus looking at the world with a fresh pair of eyes and sensibility. Poetry has always done that. Filmmaker Ritwik Ghatak used to say, “Poetry is the art of all arts.” Art doesn’t adhere to set standards. In defiance, it seeks self-renewal. If poetry is art, how can it resist defiance?

The political events of today suggest that that poetry is a spontaneous reaction to our time. It is more adaptable to forms of protest and performance. These events also show that poetry is deeply historical. It bears testimony to the times we live in and serves as a reminder of our past. A large contingent of our Bhakti tradition poets are critical of religious dogma. Is there any other way of reading Kabir?

Giving rise to future poets

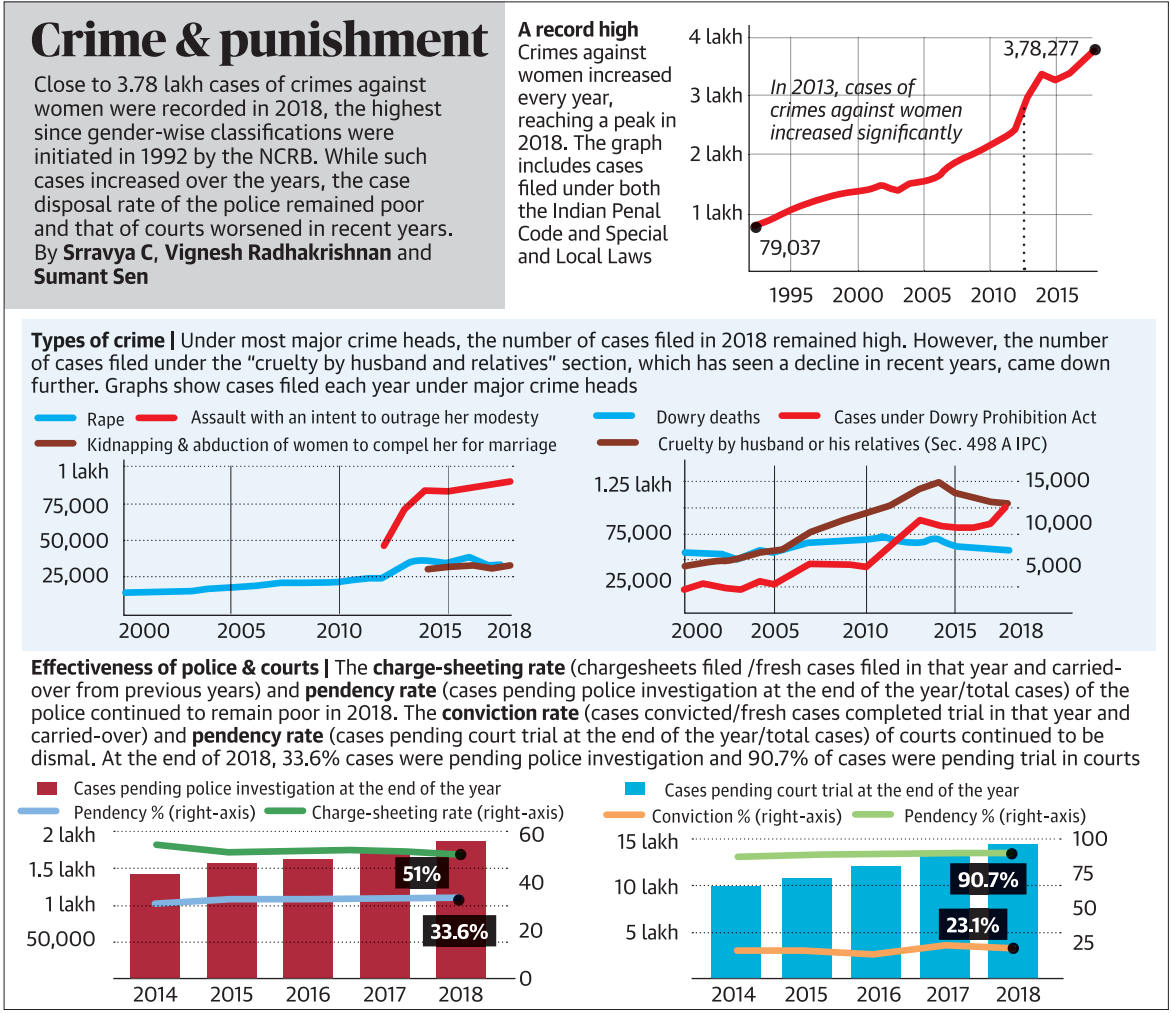
Namdeo Dhasal showed us the underbelly of Mumbai and exposed us to Dalit life in the city. Narayan Surve did something similar by tracing the history of his father’s arrival in Mumbai and the life of perennial humiliation that followed till his last day. Dilip Chitre once said that all poetry is protest.

Poetry is confrontation. It echoes the joys of living but also embodies its despairs and agonies. If so much of our lived experience and reality is a constant encounter with despair, how can poets desist from showcasing the same? Protests also birth new art and uncover new voices. Perhaps future poets will emerge from the ongoing protests and their verse will bear witness to our treacherous times.

Kunal Ray teaches literary and cultural studies at FLAME University, Pune



DATA POINT



The  Hindu.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO JANUARY 14, 1970

India-Ceylon ties
(From an Editorial)

Never before have relations between India and Ceylon been as cordial and friendly as now. This close friendship based on mutual understanding and identity of interests in many spheres had its resounding confirmation in the memorable welcome that the Government and people of Ceylon extended to President Giri during his five-day State visit to the Island. Though, as the President stressed at more than one function, Indo-Ceylon ties are based on long history, a common culture and co-operation in many fields, they do need reinforcement from time to time by personal contacts at all levels of the administration of both countries. Fortunately, the only issue that posed some difficulty and even threatened to embitter relations has been practically put out of the way by statesmanship and give and take on both sides. The problem of a million stateless persons of Indian origin in Ceylon plantations is well set for a satisfactory solution. Under the agreement regulating the grant of Ceylon citizenship to 3,00,000 of them and Indian passports to 5,25,000, the bulk of the stateless would have been given their basic right so long denied to them.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO (FROM THE JANUARY 13, 1920 EDITION AS THERE WAS NO ISSUE ON JANUARY 14)

The Punjab situation.
(From an Editorial)

We publish elsewhere an account sent by Reuter of an interview with Mr. Montagu. There are two points about his views regarding the Punjab events which are most disquieting. He said as regards the complaint that the British public and the India Office were ignorant of the details of the occurrences until the evidence reached England that having decided that the Hunter Committee should inform the public of the events in detail, the India Office had nothing to do but await the results of the inquiry. We cannot imagine a more flimsy explanation of the ugly fact that the India Office was kept ignorant of the most ghastly details of the occurrences in the martial law regime by His Majesty’s servants in India. An inquiry cannot obviate the necessity for the Executive in India to report faithfully to the Secretary of State about the events in the Punjab and of the accounts which they had in their possession. It is nothing short of a scandal that this elementary duty was not performed by the Government of India.

FROM PAGE ONE

SC not to review Sabarimala case

“This Court cannot tell how religion is to be practised,” Mr. Dhavan submitted.

They drew the Bench’s attention to the Shrirur Mutt judgment of the Supreme Court of 1954. According to the verdict, the essentiality of religious practices should be decided in accordance with the religious doctrines of each faith.

The Supreme Court has limited power of judicial review, they argued.

The 1954 judgment held that any regulation could only extend to religious practices and activities which were economic, commercial or political in their character.

Lawyers even asked whether the numerically stronger nine-judge Bench was formed to test the Shrirur Mutt verdict delivered by a seven-judge Bench, which had reduced the court’s role and left the question of essentiality of

Lawyers for Pandalam family to attend meet

NEW DELHI Supreme Court lawyers for a senior member of the Pandalam royal family, believed by worshippers to be the foster-family of Sabarimala temple deity Lord Ayyappa, are expected to take part in a conference scheduled for January 17 to re-frame issues to be argued before a nine-judge Constitution Bench. The lawyers would re-frame or add questions to those referred to the Bench by a five-judge Review Bench in the Sabarimala case on November 14, 2019.

religious practices to the wisdom of religious texts.

“The only reason to refer this to a nine-judge Bench seems to be that Shrirur Mutt was decided by a seven-judge Bench. But no one has questioned that judgment,” Ms. Jaising said.

Opposition demands CAA withdrawal

Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, NCP supremo Sharad Pawar, Left leaders Sitaram Yechury and D. Raja, Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren of the JMM, RLD’s Ajit Singh and LJD chief Sharad Yadav were among those who were present.

The joint resolution stated that the “spirit of resistance has woken now” and urged citizens to come out in large numbers to protect the spirit of the Indian Constitution on January 23, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose’s birth anniversary, undertake mass readings of the Preamble on January 26 and remember the sacrifices made by Mahatma Gandhi on January 30, the anniversary of his martyrdom.

Sources told *The Hindu* there was a difference of opinion on the way forward

with the anti-CAA-NRC protests continuing for over a month now.

While a section of the Left leaders including CPI (M) General Secretary Sitaram Yechury and CPI General Secretary D. Raja wanted parties to take a leadership role in organising political movements, senior leaders of the Congress including Ms. Gandhi preferred the anti-CAA-NRC protests to be “a people’s movement against the BJP government.”

‘Govt. spreading hatred’ Presiding over the meeting, Ms. Gandhi alleged that the country’s economy was facing an imminent collapse but Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah were trying to divert attention from it by focussing on polarising people.

Nitish against NRC, open for CAA debate

He also emphasised that caste names be included in the census when it is done.

“It (the NRC) would be needless (koi zarurat hai nahin) and have no justification (koi auchiitya nahin). And I think the Prime Minister, too, has spoken clearly on this,” he told the House, while thanking it for unanimously ratifying the Constitution amendment for extending quotas for SCs and STs in Parliament and state assemblies by another 10 years.

About the CAA and the National Population Register, he said he was agreeable to having a debate in the Assembly.

“This session has been convened for a specific purpose. However, there is a lot

of turmoil over CAA, NRC and NPR. I agree with the Leader of the Opposition that there should be a discussion on these,” he said.

Earlier, Leader of the Opposition Tejashwi Yadav had said, “The nation is on fire” on the issues of CAA, NRC and NPR and sought to know whether the Chief Minister “stands with Lalan Singh or Pavan Varma and Prashant Kishor.”

Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh is the JD(U) leader in the Lok Sabha. The party had voted in favour of the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill in both houses of Parliament, to which Mr. Varma, a national general secretary, and Mr. Kishor the national vice president had taken strong exception.

Hizb ultras led police to rogue officer

An AK-47 rifle and two pistols were recovered in a raid conducted there later.

“A police party in civvies stayed put outside Singh’s house the whole of Friday night,” a police officer said.

All four, including DSP Singh, were followed the next day on the Srinagar-Jammu highway in an operation directly spearheaded by Deputy Inspector General, south Kashmir, Atul Goel. They were detained at Wanpoh in Kulgam in the afternoon.

The vehicle is registered in the name of Shafi, an official said. “We have information that in the past he has helped the militants with safe passage. A team was on his trail for two days but he

kept dodging them, he finally landed in police net in Kulgam,” an official said.

Investigations suggested that the police officer had helped Babu, who has a reward of ₹20 lakh on his head, flee outside the Valley to Jammu last year too.

“The officer was likely to have helped the militants stay at a safe place in Jammu this time and help them avoid any questioning on the highway,” another police officer said. Mr. Singh is currently posted with the anti-hijacking wing at the Srinagar International Airport. His role in the August 26, 2017 terror attack at the District Police Lines in Shopian is also being investigated, the official said.

Nadda tipped to be BJP chief

Party polls on January 19 or 20; unanimous election of president likely

NISTULA HEBBAR
NEW DELHI

The BJP is all set to elect a new party president as early as next week, with current working president J.P. Nadda tipped to be the man for the job.

Senior party sources said that under the party constitution, once 50% of the State-level organisational elections were completed, the election of the national president took place. With the former likely to be completed this week, the national-level election is scheduled for either January 19 or 20.

Poll process

At least three sets of nomination papers are to be filed for the presidential election,



Change of guard: BJP working president J.P. Nadda, left, and Union Home Minister Amit Shah. ■ FILE PHOTO

with a minimum of 20 proposers (drawn from the national executive of the party, from various State units). If there is only one name in the fray (as is likely), then the candidate will be announced as elected unopposed.

The current team (with-out the old president) will be

asked to continue till a new team of office-bearers is named by the incumbent.

“The election of a national president is then followed by an endorsement by the national council of the party. A meeting of the council will be called in February after the Delhi polls are done, and

the endorsement sought,” a source said.

Mr. Nadda’s election is said to be a foregone conclusion especially after he was made working president of the party after Union Home Minister Amit Shah took up his assignment in the government.

Mr. Shah had himself been made president when Defence Minister Rajnath Singh became a Minister in the first Modi government. After completing the remainder of Mr. Singh’s tenure, Mr. Shah had been elected for a further term at the helm of party affairs in January 2016.

BJP presidents have a tenure of three years and can be re-elected for only one more term.

BJP booklet on Modi sparks protests

Maratha outfits upset that it compares the Prime Minister to Chhatrapati Shivaji

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
PUNE

The depiction of Prime Minister Narendra Modi as a “latter-day King Shivaji” in a booklet of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) sparked protests across Maharashtra and demands that the party immediately withdraw it and halt further publication.

Aaj ke Shivaji, Narendra Modi, written by Jai Prakash Goyal, BJP leader and president of the United Hindu Front (an umbrella body of fringe right wing outfits), provoked the ire of pro-Maratha outfits such as the

Sambhaji Brigade. Shiven-draraje Bhosale, BJP legislator from Satara and direct descendant of the Maratha warrior king, urged his party superiors to rein in “overzealous” activists like Mr. Goyal.

The Shiv Sena and the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) staged protests in Nashik, Kolhapur and Osmanabad, while members of the Sambhaji Brigade held a demonstration against the BJP near Lal Mahal, the legendary palace in Pune where King Shivaji lived as a child along with his mother, Rajmata Jijabai.

“If the BJP does not withdraw this booklet within a week, then the Brigade will ensure that not a single BJP office is left standing in Maharashtra,” warned its leader Santosh Shinde.

The outfit further demanded that Chhatrapati Shivaji’s 13th descendant, ex-Satara MP and BJP leader Udayanraje Bhosale, spell out his stance.

Effigies burnt

Members of the Brigade also burnt effigies of Mr. Goyal in Solapur, while a police complaint against the BJP leader

was lodged by a Shiv Sena activist in Solapur’s Faujdar Chavadi police station.

Shiv Sena MP Sanjay Raut said: “Shivaji Maharaj cannot be compared to anyone, even Balasaheb had said, when he was compared to Maharaj.”

Maharashtra Congress president Balasaheb Thorat has called a statewide protest on Tuesday against the BJP.

On Monday, Mumbai Congress president Eknath Gaikwad led a protest against the BJP and burned the effigy of the booklet’s author.

Nobel laureate arrives for lecture tour

Ramakrishnan will speak in four cities

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Nobel Laureate Venkataraman Ramakrishnan arrived in India on Monday, ahead of a four-city lecture tour this month. He was in Lahore, Pakistan, to deliver a scientific lecture, and arrived in India via the Wagah-Attari border on Monday.

“It’s good to be back in India and I’m looking forward to my lecture tour,” Professor Ramakrishnan, who is President, Royal Society of London, said in a video message, uploaded on Instagram by his communications team.

Dr. Ramakrishnan, recipient of the 2009 Nobel Prize in Chemistry, will be the 2020 Speaker of the TNQ Distinguished Lectures in the Life Sciences. It will be the 10th edition of this lecture series.

In Lahore, he was a plenary speaker at ThinkFest, which featured discussions on science, art, diplomacy and politics. Dr. Ramakrishnan spoke on *Gene Machine*, his popular science memoir. India-born Dr. Ramakrishnan will be lecturing in Bengaluru, Mumbai, Chennai and New Delhi.

Professor Ramakrishnan has spent most of his research life on the ribosome, the cell structure necessary for making protein, and his proposed lecture, ‘My Adventures in the Ribosome’ is expected to be about his scientific journey. His book *Gene Machine* explains his work, the road to the Nobel



Venkataraman Ramakrishnan

Prize, and the competition among various research groups to figure out the ribosome’s structure.

Dr. Ramakrishnan has not shied away from political statements. Last month, in an interview to *The Telegraph* in London, he criticised the Citizenship Amendment Act, which discriminates against Muslim refugees to India. “We are not Pakistan. We are different in that we are secular...India is taking a wrong turn,” the newspaper reported. The Nobel Laureate schooled in India but holds dual British-American citizenship.

Significant impact

The annual TNQ lectures are delivered by scientists who have made a significant impact on the Life Sciences. Previous speakers have included Shinya Yamanaka, 2012 Nobel Laureate in Physiology or Medicine.

Dr. Ramakrishnan was born in India, where he got his Bachelor’s degree in Physics from Baroda University.

Apache, Chinook to make Republic Day debut

25th march for IAF bandmaster

DINAKAR PERI
NEW DELHI

Warrant Officer Ashok Kumar, 47, is a seasoned bandmaster of the Indian Air Force (IAF) band contingent. However, this year’s Republic Day parade on January 26, 2020 is a particularly memorable one as it is his 25th parade marching across the Rajpath.

He joined the IAF in 1994 and started playing the trumpet and bugle in the IAF band a year after.

He has been the bandmaster for 12 years. To become the bandmaster, there is a six-week drum major course conducted by the Army Education Corps at Pachmarhi in Madhya Pradesh, which



Ashok Kumar

he completed in 2011.

“It is a matter of pride to honour the President of India while leading the IAF contingent,” he told *The Hindu* on Monday, recounting his experiences on the sidelines of a briefing on the IAF’s Republic Day parade

participation. “Now the standards have changed. The tunes have also changed a lot,” he said. In fact the changing tunes, of late adopting a lot from Bollywood, has been a matter of much debate in the last few years.

His most memorable moment was during the parade in 2015, when the U.S. President Barack Obama was the chief guest at the R-Day parade.

“When we were marching, First Lady Michelle Obama made a good comment and we were given on-the-spot commendation from then IAF Chief Air Chief Marshal Arup Raha,” he recounted.

House panel looking into surrogacy issues

Members will visit Anand and Mumbai

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The parliamentary select committee set up to look into the Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2019 will travel to Anand, Hyderabad and Mumbai from January 21 to 24 as part of deliberations on the shape of the Bill.

Anand, a town in Gujarat, has a large number of commercial surrogates, while Mumbai and Hyderabad also have many clinics on the cutting edge of fertility medicine.

A member of the committee told *The Hindu* that the panel was deeply engaged with the question of whether or not single parent surrogacy be allowed. The Bill asks for a couple to have been married for at least five years with proven infertility before applying for surrogacy. “But there are many children brought up by single parent families who do well. So why deny singles? The committee is engaged with that question,” the source said.

The committee will look at the technology and the ethical gap to be bridged in terms of its use. While the

Bill currently seeks to ban commercial surrogacy, even altruistic surrogacy can become problematic without a nuanced definition of “close relative”. “There are things that are moral and immoral, but also extra-moral, that is, technology by itself is shorn of morality, but it can be used for moral and immoral purposes, family dynamics in many cases can lead to undue pressure on less powerful members of the family being forced to be surrogates, etc. So the definition and regulatory framework has to be nuanced,” said the panel member.

While commercial surrogacy is banned under the Bill, the committee will study just such arrangements during the Anand visit. When the Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha during the last Parliament session, several amendments, including removal of the necessity of the clause asking that only married couples, that too with at least five years of marriage, be allowed for surrogacy. The panel members say they are determined to make it more up to date law.

PM and world leaders to attend Raisina Dialogue

The theme this year is ‘Navigating the alpha century’

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

At least 12 Foreign Ministers, including Sergey Lavrov of Russia, Javad Zarif of Iran and Marise Payne of Australia, and seven former heads of state and government will attend the “Raisina Dialogue” organised by the External Affairs Ministry jointly with the Observer Research Foundation in Delhi from Tuesday.

Also attending are Afghanistan’s National Security Adviser Hamidullah Mohib and U.S. Deputy National Security Adviser Matthew Pottinger.

India’s contribution

“The Dialogue has been India’s contribution to global efforts to discover solutions, identify opportunities and provide stability to a century that has witnessed an eventful two decades,” said an Ministry statement, explaining the significance of the conference held every year.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend the inaugural session where former



Narendra Modi

leaders, including former Afghan President Hamid Karzai and former Prime Ministers Helen Clark of New Zealand, Stephen Harper of Canada, Carl Bildt of Sweden, Anders Rasmussen of Denmark, Tshering Tobgay of Bhutan and Han Seung-soo of South Korea, will be discussing future global issues.

The title of the Raisina Dialogue this year is “Navigating the alpha century”.

Mr. Modi will also host a meeting of all the visiting Foreign Ministers together.

The conference, which is in its fifth year, will host 700

participants from more than 100 countries, a statement issued by the Ministry said, adding that at least 40% of the speakers would be women.

Australian PM pulls out

Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison, who was due to give the inaugural keynote address, had to pull out due to the fire crisis in Australia, which means that unlike previous versions of the conference, this year will have no sitting head of government or state participating.

Bangladesh Deputy Foreign Minister Shahriar Alam, who cancelled his participation on Saturday, will be replaced by the Information Minister Mohammad H. Mahmud.

Another key feature of the event, a session on the Indo-Pacific that includes military or naval commanders from the “Quadrilateral or Quad”, Australia, India, Japan, and the United States, will also have a French Defence official on the panel this year.

Bangladesh Minister in New Delhi

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Bangladesh Information Minister Mohammad H. Mahmud arrived here on Monday evening on a five-day visit, during which his country’s official broadcaster Bangladesh Betar and All India Radio will inaugurate a content sharing programme.

Diplomatic sources said Mr. Mahmud’s visit was planned earlier and aimed at carrying forward some of the agreements that had been concluded earlier.

India and Bangladesh agreed in 2018 to share radio content. The visit acquires a special meaning as it comes after Bangladesh cancelled several high-profile visits to India in view of the growing domestic criticism of India’s Citizenship (Amendment) Act and the National Register of Citizens. Among the cancelled visits was that of Deputy Foreign Minister Shahriar Alam, who was expected to take part at the ‘Raisina Dialogue’, organised by the Ministry of External Affairs. Mr. Mahmud will stand in for Mr. Alam at the annual event.



It's just bad, Satya Nadella on CAA

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI
Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella became one of the first big corporate names to speak on the Citizenship (Amendment) Act while talking to editors in Manhattan on Monday. According to Ben Smith, editor-in-chief of *buzzfeednews.com*, Mr. Nadella said: "I think what is happening is sad... It's just bad... I would love to see a Bangladeshi immigrant who comes to India and creates the next unicorn in India or becomes the next CEO of Infosys."

IN BRIEF

AIUDF MLAs stage protest against CAA
GUWAHATI
The legislators of the All India United Democratic Front on Monday squatted with black masks outside the gate of the Assam Assembly to protest against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act. They also displayed placards before the start of a special one-day session to adopt a resolution on the ratification of the Reservation Bill for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled tribes for 10 years, up to January 2030.

BJP leader warns to 'bury alive corrupt protesters'
ALIGARH
BJP leader Raghuraj Singh has said people raising slogans against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and U.P. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will be buried alive. Mr. Singh made the statement on Sunday while addressing a rally in Aligarh to create awareness about Citizenship (Amendment) Act. Warning "those one per cent criminal and corrupt people against saying *murdabad* to PM Modi and CM Adityanath", he said, "I will bury you alive." PTI

Schools get show-cause notice for CAA tutorials
MUMBAI
The Maha Vikas Aghadi government in Maharashtra has issued a show-cause notice to private schools for taking tutorials on the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA) and the National Register of Citizens (NRC). School Education Minister and senior Congress leader Varsha Gaikwad said she issued the notice on Monday, asking the schools to desist from holding lectures/classes/tutorials on the CAA and the NRC that have sparked nationwide protests.

West Bengal BJP chief kicks up a storm

Dilip Ghosh's comments on shooting protesters irresponsible, say Babul Supriyo and other BJP leaders

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
KOLKATA
The remarks of BJP West Bengal president Dilip Ghosh justifying the killing of some of those protesting against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act triggered an outrage on Monday. Leaders of his own party called them "irresponsible".
"See, our government in Assam, Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka has shot them [the protesters] like dogs, put them behind bars and also filed cases against them," Mr. Ghosh is heard saying in a video. Continuing his argument that "infiltrators" should be treated with raw power, he added, "They will come here, eat, stay, and then destroy property. Do they think this is their *zamindari*? We will hit them with sticks, shoot them and



also sent them to jail."
Mr. Ghosh made the remark at a party meeting in Nadia district on Sunday evening. The video, which was not verified, surfaced on Monday. In his speech, he also questioned why there was "neither baton-charge, nor firing, nor any FIR filed against protesters in West Bengal".
"Is it anybody's paternal

property? The rail tracks, roads, buses and trains were made with the money we pay in tax. You are not taking any action only because they are your voters?" he said, before justifying the killings in the States under the BJP.

'Figment of imagination'
Union Minister Babul Supriyo, of the BJP, described Mr. Ghosh's remarks as a "fig-

ment" of imagination. "The BJP, as a party, has nothing to do with what Dilip Ghosh may hv [have] said. It is a figment of his imagination & BJP Govts in UP, Assam hv [have] NEVER EVER resorted to shooting people for whatever reason whatsoever. Very irresponsible of Dilip Da to hv [have] said what he said," he wrote on Twitter.
However, Mr. Ghosh held his ground after Mr. Supriyo's reaction. He said, "Our government has done that, and if we get a chance we will do the same in Bengal." Mr. Supriyo retorted that Mr. Ghosh's remarks were his personal views.
Swapan Dasgupta, a Rajya Sabha member of the BJP, retweeted Mr. Supriyo's tweet, indicating that he did not support Mr. Ghosh's

comments.
Locket Chatterjee, another party MP and head of the BJP's Mahila Morcha in West Bengal, said, "The BJP does not want anyone to live in fear. The party wants to provide security to all, and this is the vision of our Prime Minister."
The Trinamool Congress criticised the comments. Its MP Abhishek Banerjee wanted to know whether the remarks were personal, or those of the party. "Although @DilipGhoshBJP correctly characterized his party, his own MP refuting his stance publicly raises serious doubts over his credibility to lead BJP in Bengal. Dilip Babu please let us ALL know if your statements are to be seen as personal opinion or views of your party," Mr. Banerjee said.

NGO files plea on the need for NPR

It cites PM's speech denying NRC

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI
A petition filed in the Supreme Court on Monday questioned the need for preparing the National Population Register (NPR) if the government has decided to abort the National Register of Citizens (NRC) exercise.
"When the Central government has already taken a policy decision to not go ahead with the NRC (as mentioned by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India in his speech dated December 22, 2019 and as per the stand of the officials of the Ministry of Home Affairs - as per the media reports dated 24.12.2019), the preparation of the Population Register is nothing but a waste of time, energy and valuable re-

sources of the nation," Minority Front, an NGO, submitted in the court.
Besides, the NPR, according to media reports, would cost the exchequer ₹3,941.35 crore. The NPR would be prepared within the period of April 1, 2020-September 30, 2020.
The NGO quoted provisions from the Citizenship (Registration of Citizens and Issue of National Identity Cards) Rules, 2003, which point out that the NPR is the first step towards conducting the NRC, and both are intrinsically linked. These Rules provide for preparation of the NRC and for issuance of a National Identity Card to those persons whose names have been entered in the NRC.

Protest on campus



Vocal agitation: Jamia Millia Islamia University students staging a protest in New Delhi on Monday to demand registration of an FIR against the Delhi police for last month's violence on the campus. ■SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

JNU professors want data preserved

Delhi High Court issues notice to police, Google, WhatsApp and Apple

SOIBAM ROCKY SINGH
NEW DELHI
The Delhi High Court on Monday issued notice to the Delhi police, Google, WhatsApp and Apple on a petition filed by three Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) professors seeking preservation of data pertaining to the January 5 violence on the campus.
Justice Brijesh Sethi posted the case for a detailed hearing on Tuesday as counsel for the social media sites were not present when it came up in the morning.
During the brief hearing,

the police said they were taking all necessary steps to preserve the CCTV footage and messaging records on WhatsApp.
Request for footage
Advocate Rahul Mehra, Delhi police standing counsel, said the agency had written to the JNU administration for footage of 135 CCTV cameras on the campus from January 3 to 6.
Mr. Mehra added that the police had not received any response to the request.
The police had also written for data regarding two

WhatsApp groups that were allegedly used to plan and coordinate the attack.
The petition, filed by professors Ameet Parameswaran, Atul Sood and Shukla Vinayak Sawant, claimed that the particulars of the January 5 incident "seem to indicate that the entire attack was premeditated and coordinated". The professors also said they had been personally injured in the violence.
"Unless the same had been the result of a pre-planned conspiracy, it would not have been possible for a mob in such large numbers,

many of whom appear to be outsiders, to enter the JNU campus," the petition said.
"The existence of a pre-meditated and well-organised attack is further clear from the fact that these persons were covering their faces wearing masks, without any proper identification, carrying weapons and so on," it stated.
The petition said several persons appeared to have used WhatsApp to create different groups for the purpose of inciting hate and violence against the teachers, staff, and students.

AASU leaders skip meet with Shah

'Clause 6 of Assam Accord bartered'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI
Leaders of the All Assam Students' Union (AASU), one of the signatories of the 1985 Assam Accord, skipped a meeting with Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday.
Four members of a high-level committee for implementation of Clause 6 of the Assam Accord, which provides for constitutional, legislative and administrative safeguards to protect, preserve and promote the culture, social, linguistic identity and heritage of the Assamese people, met Mr. Shah in Delhi.
Report soon
The 14-member panel, headed by retired Gauhati High Court judge Biplab Kumar Sarma, also tasked with finding out who is an 'Assamese', is expected to submit its report by January 15.
The AASU leaders – chief adviser Samujjal Bhattacharyya, president Dipanka K. Nath and general secretary Lurinjyoti Gogoi – decided to stay away.
"It is the government's bounden duty to implement Clause 6, but it is virtually being bartered to offset the anger in Assam against the unconstitutional CAA. Implementing this vital clause of the Assam Accord will not be proper if the Citizenship (Amendment) Act is also in force,"



Amit Shah

Mr. Nath said.
The committee is also expected to recommend reserving Assembly seats for the indigenous communities of Assam.
"We have apprised the Home Minister of the progress of our work. He has given a few suggestions. We hope to submit our final report within the next 15 days," Mr. Sharma told journalists.
Asked whether the panel could finalise the "definition of Assamese", the retired judge said the members were yet to take a decision on it and hoped to come to a conclusion soon.
"All members of the committee will soon meet to finalise the report and all remaining issues will be resolved," he said. The meeting took place four days after Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal met Mr. Shah and discussed with him various aspects of Clause 6, under which the Central government had promised to provide constitutional safeguards to the indigenous people.

Home Affairs panel grills Delhi police chief

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI
A parliamentary panel on Home Affairs questioned the Delhi police commissioner over the use of force against students and suggested that the police should have acted in a mature manner and opened a dialogue with them.
The panel also raised the issue of the police frequently imposing Section 144 in parts of Delhi, which causes inconvenience to many.
Top officials of the Union Home Ministry and Delhi police chief Amulya Patnaik appeared on Monday before the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs, chaired by senior Congress leader Anand Sharma, to discuss rising crimes in Delhi and National Capital Region (NCR).
Mr. Patnaik was also asked about the recent sit-in by Delhi police officials outside police headquarters. "The Commissioner of Police was told that if the police sits on a *dharna*, then questions are raised on his leadership," a member of the committee said.
Without mentioning the recent incidents of violence at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) and Jamia Millia Islamia, members of the panel questioned the way in which the police handled the protests.

JNU faculty members send feelers to other institutions

IIT-Delhi Director shows willingness to hire them

PRISCILLA JEBARAJ
NEW DELHI
JNU's loss may become IIT's gain. Senior faculty members at Jawaharlal Nehru University, faced with a "deteriorating situation", have expressed interest in moving across the road to the Indian Institute of Technology, according to an e-mail sent by IIT-Delhi Director V. Ramgopal Rao.
In the December 19 e-mail to the department heads, Dr. Rao encouraged them to facilitate lateral hires of senior JNU faculty members with distinguished records.
"I am receiving many feelers from senior JNU faculty [members] showing a willingness to move to IIT-Delhi, considering the deteriorating situation in JNU," said the email. "I am told that some of them are also applying to other institutions given the impression that IIT-Delhi doesn't encourage lateral movement into higher positions. It will be a pity if we lose out on such good people because of any of these reasons/perception."
In his e-mail, Dr. Rao added that he would leave it to the judgment of the department heads how they wished to deal with the situation, emphasising that the "Institute will be very open to recruitment of senior faculty [members] who have a

distinguished track record."
The *Hindu* has confirmed the authenticity of the e-mail.
Ramakrishna Ramaswamy made the move across the road in the last year, taking the post of a visiting professor at IIT-Delhi after retiring from a 32-year stint at JNU. Dr. Ramaswamy, who had been on the short-list for JNU Vice-Chancellor in 2016, says the current crisis has affected students and teachers and hampered research activities.
"For good research, you need a stable environment. With the kind of upheavals going on now, research in the life sciences would be severely affected," he said. The shutting down of buildings would especially harm experiments using live tissue, he said. While the JNU is known for its humanities and social science research, it owes much of its high ranking to excellence in the sciences.
Dr. Ramaswamy added that he still supervised Ph.D students at JNU, who come from poor socio-economic backgrounds, meaning they have been hit hard by the hostel fee increase that caused the current crisis.
JNU Vice-Chancellor M. Jagadeesh Kumar, accused of precipitating the crisis, made the move in the opposite direction. He was an electrical engineering professor at IIT-Delhi.

5 countries to discuss action against Iran

The countries whose citizens died when the plane was shot down by Tehran will meet in London

REUTERS
SINGAPORE

Five nations whose citizens died when an airliner was shot down by Iran last week will meet in London on Thursday to discuss possible legal action, Ukraine's Foreign Minister said.

Speaking on the sidelines of an official visit to Singapore on Monday, Vadym Prystaiko said the countries would also discuss compensation and the investigation into the incident. All 176 people on board the flight died in the crash on Wednesday, minutes after the plane took off from Tehran airport.

Mr. Prystaiko said suggestions from Iran that the Ukrainian International Airlines plane was downed as it flew near a sensitive military base during a time of heightened tensions were "nonsense". He said Tehran had agreed to hand over the plane's black boxes to Kiev for investigation.

"We have created this group of Foreign Ministers from the grieving nations. On January 16, we will meet in person in London to discuss the ways, including le-



Standoff: Protesters hold flowers as police fire tear gas during a demonstration in front of a university in Tehran. ■STR/AFP

gal, how we are following this up, how we are prosecuting them (Iran)," Mr. Prystaiko said.

He said the five nations also included Canada – which had at least 57 passport holders aboard the doomed flight – Sweden, Afghanistan and a fifth country, which he did not name.

Many on board were Iranians with dual citizenship.

After days of denials, Iran said on Saturday its military had shot down the plane in a "disastrous mistake". Mr. Prystaiko said Ukraine was not informed by Iran that it

would be taking responsibility before that public announcement.

Tehran said its air defences were fired in error while on alert after Iranian missile strikes on U.S. targets in Iraq.

"This is nonsense because our plane was recorded and confirmed – was going within the international route which was given by the dispatchers... Nothing was extraordinary," Mr. Prystaiko said, adding that investigators said the pilot's last words were "everything is ok on board and I am switching to auto pilot."

Iran denies 'cover-up' as protests rage on

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
DUBAI

Iran denied a "cover-up" Monday after taking days to reveal an airliner was accidentally shot down last week, a disaster that sparked demonstrations and calls for a fully transparent investigation.

"In these sorrowful days, many criticisms were directed at relevant officials and authorities," said government spokesman Ali Rabiei.

"Some officials were even accused of lying and a cover-up but, in all honesty, that was not the case," he said.

"Lying is intentionally and knowingly faking the truth. Lying is covering up. Lying is knowing a fact and not expressing it or twisting the truth."

The spokesman said all details provided by officials prior to Saturday's revelation had been based on the information available to them at the time. "All of

those who expressed opinions on those days, at the peak of America's psychological war against the Iranian nation... did so based on existing information at the time."

Meanwhile, Iranian anti-government protests were met with tear gas and left at least one person wounded, videos on social media appeared to show on Monday.

Videos show large crowds chanting slogans against the country's authorities in Tehran's iconic Azadi Square south of the centre.

In a video purporting to be from the city of Amol in the Mazandaran region on the Caspian Sea, a crowd marches, shouting, "We don't want the Islamic republic".

Germany's Foreign Ministry said that the Iranians must be allowed to "protest peacefully and freely" and express their "grief" after the plane disaster.

Mahinda Rajapaksa to visit New Delhi in February

This marks his first visit abroad after he was appointed PM

MEERA SRINIVASAN
COLOMBO

Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa will visit New Delhi early February and meet his counterpart Narendra Modi, his office said.

The PM's media office told *The Hindu* that the dates, delegation and meetings are yet to be firmed up for the visit that also marks Mr. Mahinda Rajapaksa's first visit abroad after he was appointed Prime Minister by his younger brother President Gotabaya Rajapaksa.

Mr. Mahinda Rajapaksa's visit to New Delhi comes about two months after President Gotabaya Rajapaksa went to the Indian capital, following his decisive win in Sri Lanka's November presidential polls. Last week, Sri Lanka's Foreign Relations Minister Dinesh Gunawardena met External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar in New Delhi, in the series of high-level visits from Colombo.

While key bilateral issues, including regional security



Mahinda Rajapaksa

and the much-discussed development cooperation at the East Container Terminal in Colombo and the Trincomalee oil tank farms, are on the table, Mr. Mahinda Rajapaksa's India visit will be closely watched for more reasons.

Addressing a joint press conference during Mr. Gotabaya's visit in November, Mr. Modi said that he was confident that Sri Lanka will carry forward the process of reconciliation, "to fulfil the aspirations of the Tamil for equality, justice, peace and respect." In this context, the Indian PM also referenced the implementation of the 13th Amendment to the Sri

Lankan constitution – an outcome of the Indo-Lanka Accord of 1987.

PM Mahinda, who served as President for two terms since 2005, has in the past assured India that he would implement the 13th Amendment – which envisages greater power devolution to provinces including those inhabited by Tamils – and "go beyond it". On the other hand, Mr. Gotabaya, who has promised to "be frank" with New Delhi, has repeatedly emphasised the need for development, not devolution, for the war-hit community.

Global outreach

The visit comes at a time when the new government, helmed by the Rajapaksa brothers, who have outlined a "neutral foreign policy", is engaging with international partners at high levels.

Foreign Minister of China and State Councillor Wang Yi will be in Colombo on Tuesday and meet the Sri Lankan President and PM.

HC: Musharraf cannot be punished retrospectively

Court declares his trial illegal

MEHMA SARFAZ
LAHORE

The Lahore High Court, which declared Gen. Pervez Musharraf's trial illegal, on Monday said Section 9 of the Criminal Law Amendment (Special Court) Act, 1976, under which the trial took place, was illegal as it violated Article 10-A of the Constitution, which is about fair trial.

Lawyer Usama Malik told *The Hindu* that according to the court, when emergency was declared in 2007 and the Constitution was held in abeyance, the punishment for holding Constitution in abeyance wasn't death penalty as the offence wasn't considered high treason. The High Court said this was added in the 18th Amendment passed in 2010.

The court said that Gen. Musharraf cannot be punished for something that wasn't punishable back then.

Mr. Malik pointed out that whether the government or Gen. Musharraf will appeal the December 17 ruling before the Supreme Court will be known once the detailed High Court judgment comes out.

"Another point of view is that while constitution of the special court has been declared illegal, whether the punishment stands or not is important. We will know after the detailed

judgment comes out. The High Court says that Article 6 doesn't apply to the 2007 emergency as Article 232 gives power to the President to declare emergency under special circumstances," Mr. Malik said.

Bars reaction

Meanwhile, Faisal Chaudhry, Additional Advocate General Punjab, said "it seems as if Musharraf has been exonerated by the High Court." Mr. Chaudhry, who has also represented Gen. Musharraf in the treason case in the past, said that one will have to see how the legal fraternity like the Bar Associations and Supreme Court react. "There are fair chances that the Bars will react negatively to this verdict."

Reema Omer, legal adviser, South Asia International Commission of Jurists, said it would be premature to comment on the legal reasoning behind the order, but from the reports of the proceedings, it appears legally flawed and in contradiction with earlier SC judgments on the same issues.

Abid Saqi, member of the Pakistan Bar Council, said, "Setting aside of the verdict of the special court without availing appellate court and getting reversal of that judgment through collateral proceedings is not just unprecedented but inconceivable."

Taal volcano shuts down Manila

ASSOCIATED PRESS
TAGAYTAY

Lava and broad columns of ash spewed from a volcano south of the Philippine capital on Monday.

Fine grit weighed down trees and turned roads into muddy messes across the region surrounding the Taal volcano, which has forced over 20,000 people to seek refuge in evacuation centres.

Queen agrees to let Harry, Meghan go their way

Couple will have a period of transition, in which they will stay in Canada and the U.K.

REUTERS
SANDRINGHAM

Queen Elizabeth has given her blessing to her grandson Prince Harry and his wife Meghan Markle's wish for a more independent future after an urgent meeting on Monday to resolve the rift in the British royal family.

Prince Harry and Ms. Markle triggered the crisis by announcing last week that they

wished to step back from royal duties and spend more time in North America.

After a meeting at the Queen's rural Sandringham estate in eastern England, attended by Prince Harry's father and heir to the throne, Prince Charles, and his elder brother, Prince William, the 93-year-old Queen Elizabeth said the family supported the couple's plans.



Prince Harry along with his wife Meghan Markle in London on Jan. 7. ■REUTERS

The Queen said that "today my family had very constructive discussions on the

Joker leads Oscar nominations, 1917, Irishman close behind

Women, ethnic minorities missing from the shortlist

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
ASSOCIATED PRESS
LOS ANGELES

Dark comic book tale *Joker* topped the Oscar nominations on Monday, picking up 11 nods including best picture and best director, as women and ethnic minorities were largely shut out once again.

Todd Phillips's *Joker*, a bleak, arthouse take on the comic book villain starring Joaquin Phoenix, was just ahead of three films.

Quentin Tarantino's 1960s Tinseltown homage *Once Upon a Time... in Hollywood*, Sam Mendes's First World War odyssey *1917* and



A scene from *Joker*. ■AP

Martin Scorsese's *The Irishman* each earned 10 nominations, including best picture as well as best director.

South Korean class satire *Parasite*, from Bong Joon-ho, secured the final best di-

rector slot in the shortlist.

For the 87th time, the academy selected all-male directing nominees despite a year in which women made historic gains behind the camera. The most likely candidate was Greta Gerwig (*Little Women*), who was the last woman nominated, two years ago for *Lady Bird*. "Congratulations to those men," said Issa Rae, who presented the nominees alongside John Cho.

The Oscars picked only one non-white acting nominee – British star Cynthia Erivo, who plays U.S. anti-slavery icon Harriet Tubman in *Harriet*.

Priesthood is not for married men: ex-Pope

Pope Francis for allowing it in Amazon

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
ROME

Former pope Benedict XVI has publicly urged his successor Pope Francis not to open the Catholic priesthood up to married men, in a plea that on Sunday stunned Vatican experts.

The ex-pontiff, who retired in 2013, issued the defence of clerical celibacy in a book written with arch-conservative Cardinal Robert Sarah, extracts of which were published exclusively by France's *Le Figaro*.

"I cannot keep silent!" Pope emeritus Benedict wrote in the book, which follows an extraordinary meeting of bishops from the Amazonian at the Vatican

last year that recommended the ordination of married men in certain circumstances.

The Pope emeritus, 92, and Cardinal Sarah weighed in on the controversial question of whether or not to allow "viri probati" – married "men of proven virtue" – to join the priesthood.

Pope Francis is currently considering allowing it in remote locations, such as the Amazon, where communities seldom have Mass due to a lack of priests.

The pair asked the whole Church not to be "swayed" by "bad pleas, theatrics, diabolical lies, fashionable errors that want to devalue priestly celibacy".

ELSEWHERE



Democrat Booker drops out of presidential race

DES MOINES

U.S. Senator Cory Booker, an African-American candidate who recently bemoaned the increasingly lack of diversity in the Democratic presidential field, on Monday said he was ending his White House campaign. ■REUTERS

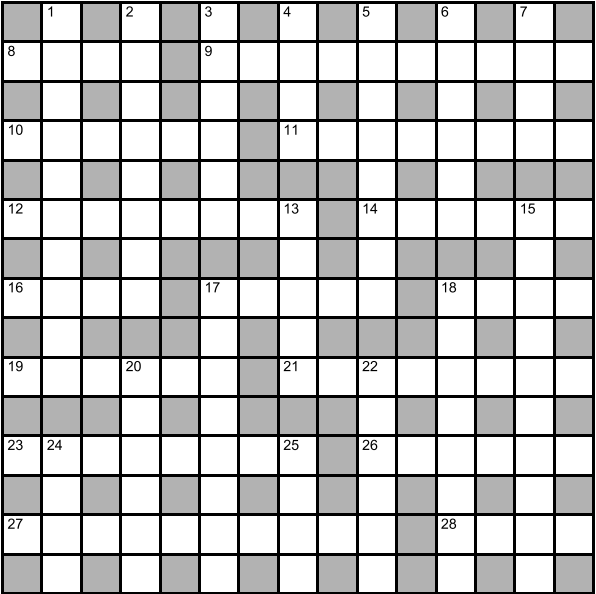
Myanmar sends 200 Rohingya to camps

SITTWE

Nearly 200 Rohingya Muslims arrested at sea last month by Myanmar's Navy during their desperate bid to reach Malaysia or Indonesia by boat have been sent back to Rakhine state, officials said on Monday. ■AFP

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12832

Log on to crossword.thehindu.com for more puzzles



ACROSS

- 8 Star seer, for example, in Virginia (4)
- 9 English sailors follow international and special joint-training period (10)
- 10 Artist's workplace has hot male at 10 (6)
- 11 Wild bear grabs doctor with a priest and a musician (8)

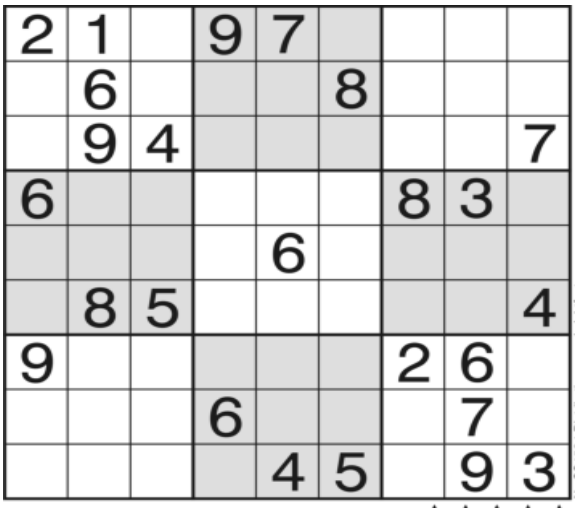
DOWN

- 1 Occidentals hide bird in winding sewers (10)

(set by Incognito)

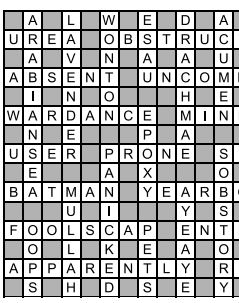
- 2 Monkey-man has tool (8)
- 3 Kipling boy has zero (nil) dress (6)
- 4 Bats! Bats! A way to get rid of bats! (4)
- 5 Rap and tango dance for horny pheasant (8)
- 6 Yearn to go up a steeple (6)
- 7 Haider's helper (4)
- 13 Wise men's time aboard (5)
- 15 Sees a dress altered and evaluated once more (10)
- 17 Prisoner of war and German communist in ground (8)
- 18 Deliver poached gnus and pistols, for example (8)
- 20 Tell about dead (6)
- 22 X – soldier's lessee (6)
- 24 Animal bone (hollow) in possession of returning team (4)
- 25 Thrashes lama endlessly in front of sheriff at first (4)

SUDOKU



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★☆

Solution to puzzle 12831



Solution to yesterday's Sudoku



FAITH

Desirable qualities

The Tamil word 'aram' is not easy to translate. Some translate it as dharma. Qualities like envy, anger and greed predominate in most of us. Overcoming such qualities can be called 'aram,' said Malayaman, in a discourse.

Many Tamil poets have written about 'aram'. Vilambi Naganar says love towards all leads to empathy and kindness, and these may be taken to be the foundation of 'aram'. Munappaadiyar wrote a work called *Aranerichchaaram*. It talks of worldly attachments and of being freed from attachments, which eventually leads to liberation from the cycle of births and deaths. It says that to live without malice towards anyone, to have love for all mankind, is the proper way to live. Deceiving others and turning away from those who need help are traits to be despised. This poet lists ten qualities as desirable: honesty, patience, lofty thoughts, penance, humility, impartiality, selflessness, saintliness, desire to do good to others and adherence to 'vratas'.

Kanimedhaviyar says honesty, spurning alcohol, not befriending wicked people, not abusing others are the qualities one must have, and a person who has such qualities does not need to read works that preach dharma, for he already knows the dharmic way of living. Poet Avvaiyar said we should have the urge to do good things. She said there is nothing better than domestic life. The Tamil work *Pinkalandai* says a person who has no gratitude towards those who helped him deserves to be punished. Thiruvalluvar says he who has a pure heart is a good man. This good man sees easy, but having good thoughts is difficult. We may pretend to be good, but our hearts are filled with envy and ill-will towards others. If we can get rid of such negative thoughts, we will qualify to be called good human beings.



To play an interactive version of this crossword online, scan the QR code

MARKET WATCH		
	13-01-2020	% CHANGE
Sensex	41,860	0.62
US Dollar	70.86	-0.11
Gold	40,432	-0.58
Brent oil	64.83	-0.54

NIFTY 50		
	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Ports	390.35	-1.70
Asian Paints	1804.90	12.35
Axis Bank	737.40	-2.65
Bajaj Auto	3094.05	-7.15
Bajaj Finserv	9455.25	83.00
Bajaj Finance	4164.50	19.65
Bharti Airtel	468.90	11.90
BPCL	470.75	0.50
Britannia Ind	3045.10	55.35
Cipla	477.65	4.15
Coal India	211.55	6.25
Dr Reddys Lab	2954.70	21.70
Eicher Motors	20280.00	-152.75
GAIL (India)	128.90	3.55
Grasim Ind	759.60	3.35
HCL Tech	586.50	6.15
HDFC	2462.55	5.00
HDFC Bank	1286.00	3.30
Hero MotoCorp	2366.75	3.30
Hindalco	211.20	-0.30
Hind Unilever	1994.85	40.85
ICICI Bank	538.60	-1.65
Indusind Bank	1539.65	48.40
Bharti Infratel	246.45	-3.00
Infosys	773.55	35.40
Indian OilCorp	126.95	1.50
ITC	239.25	1.25
JSW Steel	278.60	0.70
Kotak Bank	1691.10	6.40
L&T	1334.70	10.10
M&M	554.95	8.35
Maruti Suzuki	7352.70	22.20
Nestle India Ltd.	14658.25	-27.60
NTPC	121.75	1.45
ONGC	125.45	1.30
PowerGrid Corp	194.80	2.65
Reliance Ind	1543.70	-3.95
State Bank	330.75	-1.50
Sun Pharma	444.60	1.00
Tata Motors	196.25	-0.10
Tata Steel	495.75	9.55
TCS	2190.35	-23.20
Tech Mahindra	785.85	9.60
Titan	1158.95	4.90
UltraTech Cement	4468.70	24.10
UPL	591.95	-8.35
Vedanta	160.45	0.50
Wipro	254.80	3.05
YES Bank	42.10	-2.65
Zee Entertainment	265.10	2.10

EXCHANGE RATES		
Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on January 13		
CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	70.65	70.97
Euro	78.55	78.92
British Pound	91.71	92.16
Japanese Yen (100)	64.30	64.59
Chinese Yuan	10.25	10.30
Swiss Franc	72.65	72.98
Singapore Dollar	52.44	52.68
Canadian Dollar	54.08	54.35
Malaysian Ringgit	17.38	17.48

Source: Indian Bank

Coffee Day, CG Power trades to be suspended

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

The BSE and NSE will suspend trading in the shares of Coffee Day Enterprises and fraud-hit CG Power and Industrial Solutions from February 3, for not complying with listing norms related to submission of quarterly results.

However, if the firms comply with the provisions of listing norms on or before January 29, trading in their securities will not be suspended, BSE and NSE said in separate circulars.

They said these firms had not submitted the financial results for June 2019 and September 2019 quarters and/or not paid the fine amount levied for the non-compliance, as required under the listing norms of Securities and Exchange Board of India.

Walmart India 'lets go' of 56 employees

Move part of corporate restructuring

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Walmart India on Monday said it is laying off 56 employees across various levels as part of a corporate restructuring exercise. The company currently operates 28 Cash & Carry stores in the country.

"We are also looking at ways to operate more efficiently, which requires us to review our corporate structure to ensure that we are organised in the right way. As part of this review, we have let go 56 of our associates across levels at the corporate office," Krish Iyer, president & CEO, Walmart India, said in a statement.

Of the 56 impacted employees, eight are in senior management and 48 are from the middle and lower management levels. Mr. Iyer



Krish Iyer

said that these associates had been offered "enhanced severance benefits and outplacement services to support their transition". He further denied reports of a second round of lay-offs in April as "baseless and incorrect".

Mr. Iyer added that Walmart, which first entered India in 2007, remained committed to growing its business-to-business Cash & Carry business in India.

Slowing economy hitting payroll creation, says SBI report

New recruitments 15.8 lakh lower this fiscal than in the last

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

The current economy slowdown is impacting employment generation significantly as payroll creation, a proxy for employment generation, could be at least 15.8 lakh lower in the current financial year than the previous year.

In the previous financial year, the country had created 89.7 lakh new payrolls, as per EPFO data.

"The slow growth is now having a visible impact on payroll creation. In FY19, India had created 89.7 lakh new payrolls, as per EPFO data. In FY20, as per current projections, this number could be at least 15.8 lakh lower," State Bank of India's (SBI) group chief economic adviser Soumya Kanti



Ghosh said in a report.

The EPFO data primarily covers low-paid jobs as the salary is capped at ₹15,000 per month. Government jobs and private jobs are not within its ambit as such data had moved to the NPS beginning 2004.

"Interestingly, even in the NPS category, State and central governments are [expected] to create close to

39,000 jobs less in FY20, as per current trends. Hence, the number of new payrolls created in FY20 could be at least 16 lakh lower than in FY19," the report said.

The country's growth rate is expected to fall to an 11-year low of 5% for the current financial year, the government said last week.

The SBI report noted that the extent of formalisation had declined steadily and is now currently at 9.5% of overall payroll creation versus 11% in FY19. Hence Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections may stay below the ₹1.1 lakh crore per month mark the Centre is hoping to exceed. The prospect of lower payroll creation in government shows it was not recruiting afresh in lieu of retiring staff, it added.

Nusli Wadia withdraws suit against Tata

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI

Industrialist Nusli Wadia withdrew a criminal defamation petition and a ₹3,000-crore civil defamation suit filed against Tata Sons' chairman emeritus Ratan Tata, a week after the Supreme Court asked them to amicably settle their differences like 'mature leaders of industry'.

The 'Tatas' side had already made a statement saying they did not intend to defame Mr. Wadia.

Mr. Wadia had alleged that Mr. Tata had made defamatory statements against him shortly after the removal of Cyrus Mistry as Tata Sons' chairman on October 24, 2016.

Later, Mr. Wadia was removed as an independent director on the boards of the Tata group companies.

RHF shares tank 4.9% despite clean chit

'Disclosed group exposure voluntarily'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

Shares of Reliance Home Finance (RHF) tanked 4.9% on Monday even after the company claimed that the forensic audit report by Grant Thornton gave a clean chit, as no siphoning off or diversion of funds could be established.

The forensic report alleged regulatory anomalies with regard to group exposure and limit for non-housing loan portfolio and deviation from certain policies and procedures. RHF said the National Housing Bank (NHB) had taken note of the same and initiated action.

Shares of RHF ended 4.92% lower on Monday at ₹2.32 apiece. The firm said the forensic report had confirmed the potential group entities' exposure through

several intermediate unlisted entities at ₹7,984 crore, including interest.

"Prior to the commencement of the forensic audit and also as a part of the forensic audit, the company transparently submitted full and complete details to its auditors, regulators, lenders, and also in the latest annual financial statements which were duly approved by shareholders, to conclusively establish that the aforesaid amount outstanding of ₹7,984 crore has almost entirely been utilised by the potential group entities only for making payments of principal repayment and interest to banks, financial institutions, NBFCs, NCD holders, etc. There is no adverse finding in this regard either in the forensic audit report," the firm said.

'Kochhar violated ICICI Bank's code'

Lender files monetary suit for recovery of amounts towards clawback of bonuses

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

ICICI Bank told the Bombay High Court on Monday that former MD and CEO Chanda Kochhar's separation from the bank's services has been treated as 'termination for cause' by the board of directors 'on account of flagrant violation of ICICI Group Code of Business Conduct and Ethics'.

A division bench was hearing a petition filed by Ms. Kochhar on November 20, 2019, challenging the termination of her services by the bank and denial of the agreed remuneration as the MD and CEO without previous approval of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

She alleged this constituted a breach of statutory obligation under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 and said her services were terminated after the board accept-



Battle royale: Chanda Kochhar had challenged termination of service and denial of remuneration. • PRASHANT WAYDANDE

ed her request for early retirement.

The bank's affidavit read, "The section of the Act does not confer any right or protection upon Ms. Kochhar much less does it cast any duty upon the bank but instead is a form of regulatory oversight by the RBI for the protection of the banking company and its depositors. It does not govern or regu-

late Ms. Kochhar's contract of service, therefore has no locus to make a claim."

The affidavit said the dispute was purely contractual and "the petition pertains to termination of various contractual benefits concerning Ms. Kochhar (including stock options) and clawbacks of bonuses (which, too, were contractual in nature)."

The affidavit also relied on

retired Justice B.N. Srikrishna's report that noted, "Ms. Kochhar had not made mandatory and appropriate disclosures and failed to discharge her fiduciary duty to rescue and avoid conflict as required by the Code of Conduct as well as applicable laws and rules."

Meanwhile, on January 10, 2020, the bank also filed a monetary suit against Ms. Kochhar for recovery of amounts towards the clawback of bonuses given to her from April 2006 to March 2018 pursuant to the termination of services. The suit says, "the question regarding the validity of Ms. Kochhar's service being terminated for cause is an issue that will arise in the commercial suit. Therefore, she ought not to be permitted to raise the same issue in the petition." The matter will be heard on January 20.

Railways invites RFQ from private train operators

Aim is to cater to 'huge' unmet demand, says official

N. ANAND CHENNAI

Indian Railways has invited interested parties to submit a Request for Qualification (RFQ) document by January 17 for selection of private parties to operate 150 passenger trains on 100 routes.

The Ministry of Railways and NITI Aayog said the indicative cost of investment would be about ₹22,500 crore.

As per the draft proposal, the Ministry has grouped routes into 12 clusters that are to be operated through Public Private Partnership (PPP) on design, build, finance and operate basis, with a concession period of 35 years. Railways will adopt a 2-stage bidding process for selecting bidders. The first stage involves qualification.



Short-listed applicants will be eligible to take part in the second stage comprising Request for Proposals.

The entire project is expected to be awarded in about 180 days from January 2020. Each bidder is entitled to bid for a maximum of three clusters. Selection would be based on highest revenue share. The project work broadly includes de-

signing, procurement, financing and operation and maintenance of passenger trains comprising a minimum of 16 coaches with the right to collect market-linked fares.

Mumbai-New Delhi, Chennai-Okhla, Howrah-Chennai, New Delhi-Howrah, Shalimar-Pune and New Delhi-Patna are some of the routes on which private trains will operate.

"The idea here is to meet the huge unmet demand that led to loss of passenger business to other modes in recent times," said a senior official.

Quoting a market assessment study, he said during 2017-18, total reserve passengers were 0.65 billion, whereas waitlisted passengers were 88.5 billion.

Govt. gets cracking on GST evaders with data analytics

Official teams have booked 6,641 cases involving 7,164 entities till November last year and have, so far, recovered about ₹1,057 crore

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEW DELHI

The Department of Revenue has identified as many as 931 cases of fraudulent GST (Goods and Services Tax) refund claims through data analytics and has now tasked the GST data analytics wing to scrutinise all past and pending refund claims filed all over the country for inverted duty structure, sources said.

Refund claims worth more than ₹28,000 crore are said to have been filed by over 27,000 taxpayers so far on account of inverted duty structure in the current financial year.

The sources said such identified taxpayers, who had purchased goods from tax-evading, non-filers, would face verification and scrutiny as necessary.

This is being reviewed and

monitored weekly by Revenue Secretary Ajay Bhushan Pandey.

The sources said to curb input tax credit (ITC) frauds, data analytics is to be done on all refunds since 2017, keeping an eye on the modus operandi of unscrupulous refund claimants or fly-by-night or shell business entities for availing fake ITC.

GST formations have booked 6,641 cases involving 7,164 entities till November last year and have, so far, recovered about ₹1,057 crore.

The highest number of such fraud cases have been booked in the Kolkata zone, followed by Delhi, Jaipur and Panchkula (Haryana), the sources said, adding that fraud recently detected by central tax authorities in Delhi, involving GST refund for inverted duty structure, was deliberated at the second Na-



Under taxman's lens: Refund claims worth more than ₹28,000 crore are said to have been filed by over 27,000 taxpayers so far on account of inverted duty structure. • NAGARAGOPAL

tional Conference on GST last week.

Fake ITC credit

The sources also said investigators in Delhi had cracked –

through data analytics – a significant fraud case wherein fraudsters created a network of over 500 entities comprising fake billing entities, intermediary dealers,

distributors and bogus manufacturers of 'hawaii' chapals for availing and encashing fake ITC credits.

The bogus 'manufacturers,' created in Uttarakhand,

were making supplies to other fictitious entities and retailers in Gujarat, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu.

The raw materials for the chappals, known as EVA compound, are chargeable at 18% duty whereas chappals are chargeable at 5%, sources said, adding that as a result, the law allowed the manufacturers to claim refunds of the inverted duty structure in cash. GST investigators found an ongoing parallel investigation in Uttarakhand to be connected and took swift action in preventing refund claims of ₹27.5 crore.

Through meticulous cyber-planning, fraudsters had created over ₹600 crore of 'fake credit' which they would have continued to encash had it not been busted.

The main accused in this case was arrested in December and continues to be in

judicial remand.

It was also through data analytics that recently, GST formations had identified a few exporters with 'star' status who were fraudulently availing IGST refund and were untraceable at their registered addresses.

In these cases, an exporter with over ₹50 crore of shipments of readymade garments had taken refund of ₹3.90 crore while the entity's total GST payment in cash was a mere ₹1,650.

In another case, tax payments in cash have been made for ₹51,201 while the exporter had obtained refund of ₹9.59 crore. The GST data analytics wing had been able to identify all such cases involving fake invoicing and fraudulent tax credits, which have been encashed through the facility of IGST refunds, the sources said.

Antitrust probe ordered against Amazon, Flipkart

Promotion of 'preferred sellers' alleged

REUTERS NEW DELHI

India's antitrust body on Monday ordered an investigation into alleged competition law violations by Amazon.com Inc. and Walmart's Flipkart, the latest setback for U.S.-based e-commerce giants operating in the country.

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) said it was ordering a wider probe following a review of allegations that Amazon and Flipkart were promoting some "preferred sellers" and in turn impacting the business of other smaller sellers.

The complaint was filed by Delhi Vyapar Maha-



sangh, a group representing small-and medium-sized businesses, which alleged that several of Amazon and Flipkart's preferred sellers were affiliated with or controlled by the companies themselves, either directly or indirectly.

Both the companies deny those allegations.

More time for firms to split MD, CEO posts

SEBI extends the time for listed companies to separate the roles from April 1, 2020 to April 1, 2022

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI

Top listed firms such as Reliance Industries, HUL, ITC, JSW Steel, Hero Motocorp, TVS Motor and Raymond, along with a long list of other private and government-owned entities, have got two more years to split the position of chief executive officer (CEO) and managing director (MD).

As part of the latest amendment to the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, the capital markets regulator postponed the deadline for the separation of the MD and CEO roles for the top 500 companies from the earlier stipulated April 1,

Grace time

- SEBI notified split in roles in May 2018
- India Inc. sought extension of the deadline to comply with the norm
- 160 of top 500 listed entities are yet to split posts, says Prime Database
- List includes most PSUs, well-known private entities
- From April 1, 2022, chairperson would be non-executive director
- He/she shall not be related to MD or CEO



2020 to April 1, 2022. This assumes significance as some of the biggest names of India Inc. had sought a relief in terms of postponing the deadline to comply with the norm notified in May 2018.

Sufficient time given

Less than two months ago, SEBI Chairman Ajay Tyagi had said firms had been given sufficient time, and seeking extension of the deadline

would only mean that companies do not want to comply.

As many as 160 of the top 500 listed entities are yet to split the MD and the CEO posts, according to data from Prime Database. The list includes most public sector undertakings, private sector entities such as Adani Ports & Special Economic Zone, HCL Technologies, Dr. Reddy's Laboratories, MRF, Bharat Forge, Edelweiss Financial Services, PVR and Escorts, among others.

"Industry had various concerns in implementation, including seeking a clear regulatory demarcation on the role and responsibility under the Companies Act, 2013 and SEBI's Listing Regulations for

chairman and managing director," said Sumit Agrawal, founder, Regstreet Law Advisors.

"Certain boards had also asked for bright-line tests for segregation of overlapping roles. For instance, section 27 of SEBI Act, 1992 casts no liability on chairman but MD continues to be responsible for the acts of the company or its board of directors," the former SEBI officer added.

The SEBI notification stated that with effect from April 1, 2022, the chairperson of any of the top 500 listed entities would be a non-executive director and not be related to the MD or CEO as per the definition of the term "relative" defined under the Companies Act, 2013.

On accents and insomnia

Indie musician Mr Kev evokes laughter and tugs at heartstrings in his new EP comprising his old favourites



MEGHNA MAJUMDAR

“I don’t like writing songs that are serious. I do write about difficult situations, but very rarely do I write a song intending it to be serious. Most of my songs are fun, even if they don’t stem from necessarily fun experiences,” says Kevin Paul aka Mr Kev, while discussing his softly hummable track “Tera Mera”. One of the five songs in his recently-released EP titled *Dummy In Love: Detox Overdose*, the song stands out for two reasons. One, it was not penned by the Chennai-based singer-songwriter, but by his former roommate Alamshah Wahab. Two, it is one of the few songs in the EP – indeed, in Kevin’s roster as a whole – that does not try to evoke laughter, or sniggers, or at least a few eye rolls.

Humour is part and parcel of Kevin’s work, so much so that anyone

who has been following his gigs, walks in expecting to be entertained. His EP consists entirely of old favourites, most of which the indie music circuit has been chortling at, for years.

A case in point is the song “Iddly Vada Dosai”, which begins as a raucous, flirtatious track, before swerving into a chorus comprising solely of those three words pronounced in defiantly accentuated Tamil.

It is Kevin’s journey towards acceptance of his own accent, back when he was working in Kolkata and had to face some jibes about it, that led to this piece.

“I have a South Indian accent, and I have decided to own it. At one point, even I used to be among the group of people who would judge people for singing with an accent. Lots of people do still think like that, and I decided I want to shut it down.”



Just for laughs Kevin (above) posing with Manny the mannequin on his album cover ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

In contrast to the story behind it, the song itself is funny, and is usually introduced in gigs by the singer saying something like, “I love Kolkata, but I think my friends from there will agree that it has no place that serves some good *idli, vada, dosai*.” And invariably, someone in the crowd agrees.

Oddly enough, that is not the most unusual feature about this EP. On the album cover, seated with Kevin and sporting some cool sunglasses, is Manny, his friend and pet mannequin. “My landlord is a textile businessman. When I first walked into my room, he was just there. He crepted all my friends out, so of course I decided to keep

him,” explains Kevin. Manny the mannequin, thus became a recurring figure in his online musical acts, the butt of numerous jokes, and the face of this EP.

In fact, the only time Mr Kev comes up with something that is not funny, is when a real-life premise behind a song is rooted in laughter. Like “Tera Mera”, which he first sang to make fun of his love-lorn roommate.

“He was really low, and I got tired of it, so I started mock-singing what he had written, to irritate him. But instead of getting angry, he went, ‘I like it! We should make this song’,” laughs Kevin.

“Doc!”, on the other hand, is a

tongue-in-cheek number that brought him back to writing after a long bout of writer’s block and insomnia.

Consequently, says Kevin, it also restored the self-esteem that he had been struggling with. So, naturally, it is not a serious song at all.

And then there is the slyly suggestive “May-On-Knees”, and the coo-ing ballad “Shaira”, two more favourites from his frequent gigs that complete the EP. If the singer-songwriter’s popularity in the circuit is anything to go by, it is certainly worth checking out.

Dummy in Love: Detox Overdose can be streamed on Spotify

#DELHIMOVES

SHUBHRA ROY

As civilians we don’t really know what goes into putting up a strong defence for the country. For a lot of us, army life is vaguely about immaculate uniforms, night-vision devices, and the perks of sports infrastructure.

To help people understand the training practices better, Maj Dinesh Sharma started Delta 105, an army-themed park, named jointly after his company (a group of soldiers and officers) and the pincode for Manesar, where the facility is located.

Where it all started

“The idea is to let people do something interesting and fun while learning something as well,” says Maj Sharma, who was commissioned into the 6th battalion of the Rajputana Rifles regiment and served for four years in the Uri sector during the Kargil war. He left the army in 2004 at the age of 29 and did an MBA in Human Resources at the Symbiosis Institute of Management Studies, Pune, working with corporations like Wipro and Mercer for about 12 years before starting this venture.

About a year ago, after identifying his calling of sharing the struggles and triumphs of military men and women with civilians, he took agricultural land on lease and revamped it. The idea was to design it in a way that would resemble an army camp, along with the expertise of a Delhi-based design-

Experience the life of an army officer at this 26-acre, lush green model camp in Manesar



er. The facility opened a couple of months ago.

All that’s green

The park is set in village Pada, a 30-minute drive from Gurugram, and is spread over a lush 26 acres, away from a densely populated area, much like most army areas are. “We wanted a big space so people don’t feel claustrophobic,” Maj Sharma says.

He’s right. The fresh air reminds you of how rare a commodity it has become. On entry you are greeted by two commandos, both ex-army jawaans, sliding down from a rope, marking the onset of the action movie-like experience. He talks of a recent visit by a group of school children, who on seeing the commandos in action, immediately produced

whatever paper they had on them, for autographs.

There are about 10 activities to keep you on the move, all led by an ex-army personnel. “We have a war zone which looks like an international border. Here we explain how the enemy enters, how to stop them, what weapons are used. There is a grenade range where they can learn to throw a dummy gre-



The entrance to the park; (top) visitors on one part of an obstacle course ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

nade, and a crawl trench where people learn that the lower you keep yourself, the lower your chances are of getting hit in an attack,” he says. There’s also a firing range, an obstacle course, a race course where people have to move with a ‘battle’ load, an assault course where big groups can learn teamwork, a paintball arena.

“We conduct sessions on how to fold a national flag, how to tie a knot. We have map related activities as well,” says Maj Sharma, talking about the various facilities available.

The food too takes a leaf out of each regiment’s speciality. This month, it’s the Jat regiment, so there’s *makki ki roti* and *sarson ka saag*.

As with any army establishment, *chai* and *nimboo pani* flows freely.

What lies ahead

For Republic day, Delta 105 is organising a Military Fun and Food Carnival, where a few of Maj Sharma’s army friends will share their life stories. “We are trying to arrange food from the four regions of the country.” There’ll be an army band showcasing military tunes. “We’ll be inviting civil bands to compete with each other as they play patriotic songs.”

For those of us who spend most of our time sitting in office chairs, Maj Sharma tells us, “The more you sweat in peace, the less you bleed in war.” While we will hopefully not have war, it helps to stay fit in peace.

At Village Pada, Manesar; kids, ₹696, adults, ₹1,298 inclusive of the use of park facilities, two meals and snacks; for tickets, Delta105.com

PEOPLE

Tennis dreams

Ten Ballkids from India, among 38 from counties other than Australia, are a part of the year’s first Grand Slam



Kia Motors India announced the winners of the Australian Open Ballkids India Programme 2020 at Kia Beat 360, their experience centre in Gurugram. The final squad, 10 kids between the ages of 13 to 15, were chosen and will be a part of a group of 360. This is the second year for the programme in India.

During a tennis match, Ballkids retrieve loose balls, feed balls for service, and assist players. They have an important role in ensuring that tournaments run smoothly. “Many professional players have also been Ballkids, Roger Federer and John McEnroe included,” says Aditya B. M. V., 14, from Hyderabad, a Ballkid who’s a national-level player. “It’s a great opportunity,” he says, to meet the pros and experience a Grand Slam at close quarters.

The squad left for Australia right after the programme, on their fully-sponsored three-week trip. They will be trained at Melbourne with 28 other international Ballkids from Korea, China, and France, before finally taking part in the Australian Open 2020.

“The victory’s still sinking in,” says Sanskruti’s mother, whose daughter has been playing tennis since she was four. Sanskruti Vadakattu, 14, from Hyderabad, is one of only two girls selected from India.

“It’s a dream ‘made true’” says Yashvardhan Gaur, 15, one of the two Ballkids from Chandigarh. “We worked hard for it.” The process began with young tennis enthusiasts being asked to upload videos online showing their Ballkid-skills. Over 250 kids from 10 cities were selected based on their videos. They were further tested for athleticism, rolling, and servicing technique, and also for on-court communication, among other skills. Then, 100 were shortlisted, before the final 10 were chosen.

Kia Motors, sponsor of the Australian Open since 2002, sees itself as a global custodian of sports. In 2018, they had chosen two boys from India to be Official Match Ball Carriers at the FIFA World Cup, where they were automotive partners. The Ballkids programme for next year’s Australian Open is likely to open early this November.

M. S. SRINIVAS

PRODUCTS

At home with a bull



Olives Cre has been re-launched in India for the fourth consecutive time, as a part of its yearly agenda to revamp the space with a different theme. This year, the focus is on design, art, and craftsmanship. Spread across 8,000 square feet and three floors, there is furniture, lighting, paintings, and curios for living spaces. Of the nearly 300 pieces on display, statues of a horse, panther, and bull are the highlights. Interior designer Anuradha Aggarwal, the person behind the brand, also undertakes projects.

E-39 Naraina Vihar, upward of ₹5,000

Contact us at delhimetro@thehindu.co.in

5 EVENTS WORTH YOUR WHILE

BOOK LAUNCH

Blombury art

Blombury India in association with the British Council will launch the book *Forgotten Masters: Indian Paintings for the East India Company* edited by historian William Dalrymple. The book celebrates the work of Indian artists, all of whom worked for British patrons between the 1770s and the end of the Mughal rule in 1857.

VENUE: British Council, 17 Kasturba Gandhi Marg
TIME: 6:30 p.m.

DINING

Asian special

Mallacca: Malaysia Kitchen in Gurugram is celebrating its anniversary with a new menu. Curated by the restaurant’s chefs, the menu offers a variety of sushis like Shitake Mushroom, Chicken Tempura, and Prawn Tempura; and dimsums like Penang Tofu, Kaffir Lime Chicken, Basil Chicken and Pok Choy.

VENUE: 32nd Milestone, Sector 15, Part 2
TIME: 12 noon - 12 midnight

GIG

Music

The Piano Man Jazz Club is hosting Krishna & Shivash live tonight. Krishna Vinod is a Delhi-based singer and designer, trained in Carnatic music. She covers a variety of genres including indie-folk, jazz, neo-soul, and R&B. Shivash Chagti, is a performer from the 2015 Delhi University Western Music circuit.

VENUE: B 6-7/22 Safdarjung Enclave Market
TIME: 9 p.m.

FOOD

Pongal meal

This Wednesday, on the occasion of Pongal, the harvest festival in Tamil Nadu, Zambar will serve traditional festival food on banana leaves. In addition to the dish Pongal and Semiya Sabudana Payasam, the menu will have Kara Kozhambu, Vendakkai Mor Kuzhambu, Raw Banana Varuval, Potata Pattani Masala, and more.

VENUE: Ambience Mall, Gurugram
TIME: 12:30-4:30 p.m. and 7-10:30 p.m.

THEATRE

Hinglish drama

The Big Fat Company will stage *Name the Game / Hidimba*, a theatre performance that explores power and domination through specific lenses including gender, caste, hierarchy, and social and cultural impunity. Directed by Shree Kanth, the play borrows instances from the life of Hidimbi and Bhima from the *Mahabharata*.

VENUE: Atelier Centre for Arts, Ghitorni
TIME: 6:30 p.m.

CONSUMER ELECTRONICS SHOW 2020

Towards practical futurism

This year's Consumer Electronics Show lived up to its slogan of 'global stage for innovation'. Here are the main new conversations and gadget highlights from the international trade show



DIVYA KALA BHAVANI

If there is one thing to say about technology in the 2010s, it is that the industry went through an identity evolution. This was reflected in the annual United States-based CES, hosted and organised by Consumer Technology Association. Though CES 2020 (January 7 to January 10) took place across three geographical areas: Tech East, Tech West and Tech South in Las Vegas, the rest of the world is never left out, thanks to the live-streams.

Since its first show in 1967 in New York, the innovations got weirder, but there was a purposefulness in even the most indulgent exhibitions. And this year's expo was no different. Already making headlines, are a 5G PC from Lenovo, humanoid robots, alien-esque cars from Mercedes-Benz and Byton Ltd, the far reach of 5G, and increasingly immersive gaming gear.

Like the eye-catching gadgetry on show, the Supersessions (dis-



On the cusp (Clockwise from top) The world's first 1ms IPS gaming monitor by LG, augmented reality exercise by Realmax, an Impossible Pork product, the 'Chief Privacy Officer' roundtable • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

cussions) around what the world could expect – in not just 2020 but the next decade, too – drew lots of attention.

That said, the interest around CES lies in the fact that, unlike most tech expos, CES sees perspectives from both enthusiasts and sceptics.

Drive to be 'good'

The ongoing Fourth Industrial Revolution we live in raises a lot of questions around ethical technology, and one cannot only allude to the right implementation and consumption of technology, but also research and development of smart infrastructure.

At a fireside chat titled 'What's Next for the Fourth Industrial Revolution?', Barbara Humpton, CEO of Siemens USA, suggested that rather than waiting for regulatory practices to be enforced, tech companies can be ahead of the curve and integrate that behaviour from the get-go to establish the norm.

These practices, adds Humpton, can be applied to largely societal and sustainable goals – food practices, climate change, philanthropy, etc – for corporations across the spectrum in any given geography. On the floor, the advent of faux pork by Impossible Foods played into this.

Privacy by design

The horror stories around smart homes have been prevalent, and tech giants Google, Facebook, Amazon and Apple were placed in the hot seat.

Google introduced two new voice commands – 'Hey Google, that wasn't for you' and 'Hey Google, are you saving my audio da-

ta?' – which claim to have a tighter grip on privacy control. Upon these commands, the user can adjust privacy setting or simply know what the deal is.

A January 7 panel titled 'Chief Privacy Officer Roundtable: What Do Consumers Want?' featured Jane Horvath, Apple's senior director of global privacy, alongside Erin Egan, Facebook's vice president of public policy

and chief privacy officer, Susan Shook, global privacy officer at The Procter & Gamble Company, as well as Rebecca Slaughter, commissioner at the Federal Trade Commission, the US watchdog agency that imposed a \$5 billion penalty on Facebook over privacy breaches.

All the panellists agreed that enough can never be done in the realm of privacy. Slaughter added that what needs to be done cannot be generalised; potential actions taken are industry-specific and company-specific, and that the whole conundrum is a "solvable problem" on a policy level.

Egan announced Facebook's updated their Privacy Checkup tool; a move they claim will promise better transparency... but the world has learned that everything Facebook says should be taken with a bucket of salt.

One of the biggest concerns in the 2010s was targeted advertising, to which Shook revealed P&G's focus is now on a "consumer-centric privacy framework."

Unfortunately, in response, many of the audience members bemoaned that the epiphany of information sovereignty has come too late, and that it is time for these corporations to walk the talk.



Anticipatory Tech World' addressed how, in the next few years, technology actually "will make things happen [for consumers] before they ask for them to happen."

The talk had experts such as Cindy Cohn, executive director of the Electronic Frontier Foundation, Rana El Kaliouby, co-founder and CEO of Affectiva, Doug Clinton, managing partner at Loup Ventures, and Michele Turner, senior director of Google Smart Home Ecosystem.

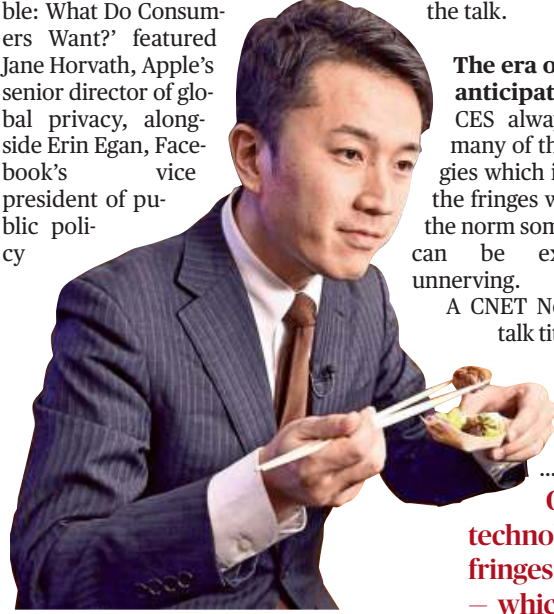
The home and wellness sectors will see far more automation and more control from the consumer, says Lindsey Turrentine, senior vice president of CBS Interactive Tech. In other words, leave the terminology of 'smart' behind, the more becoming term being 'anticipatory'.

The latest television launches from Samsung, LG and other big names, which play into the growing 8K ecosystem, are a testament to this advancement.

The era of anticipation

CES always hints that many of these technologies which initially sat on the fringes would become the norm someday – which can be exciting and unnerving.

A CNET Next Big Thing talk titled 'IoT: Moving Into An



CES always hints that many of these technologies which initially sat on the fringes would become the norm someday – which can be exciting and unnerving

POOCH CAFE



PEANUTS



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



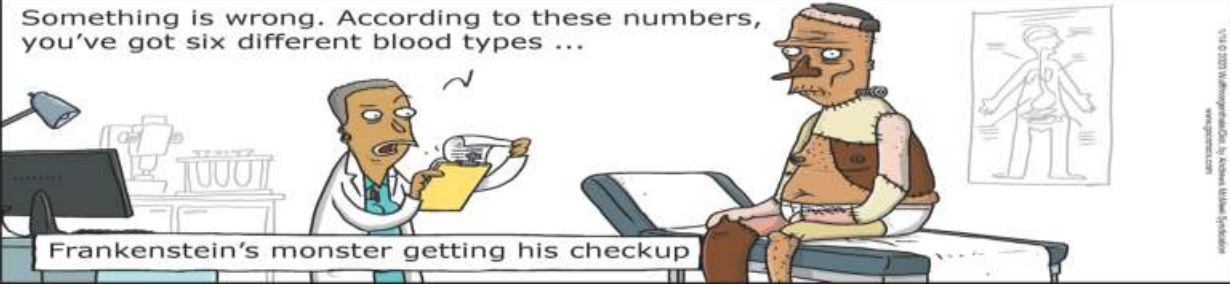
CALVIN AND HOBBS



TIGER



WUMO



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE



GRAFFITI

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THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-13276

To play The Guardian Quick Crossword, The Hindu Cryptic crossword, Sudoku & other puzzles online, scan the QR code

6 Whole-milk holey cheese (7)
7 Fertilised human egg (6)
8 Sign (11)
14 Fly people and goods to places not otherwise accessible (7)
15 Score at the wrong end (3,4)
16 Dribble (6)
17 Horse (or person) that can go the distance (6)
19 Chin split (5)
21 Government fixed-interest securities – young sows (5)

The solution will appear on January 15, 2020.

Solution No. 13275

Across
1 Mucky (6)
4 Circulate (6)
9 Branch off (7)
10 Promotional guff (5)
11 Communications medium (5)
12 Because of that (7)
13 Loo (5,6)
18 Expressing deep emotion (7)
20 What proverbially follows day (5)

22 Light semi-transparent fabric (5)
23 Supermarket vehicle (7)
24 Spin (6)
25 Comparatively near (6)

Down
1 Felt hat with a creased crown (6)
2 Furious (5)
3 Secretion from an endocrine gland (7)
5 Permeate (5)

ASSESS HILLS
R PLAIN A E C
ECLAIR BISTRO
H R U K D U
WAIT BIBULOUS
I A B I W E
CONCEALMENT
C P R A N O
AMETHYST RITE
UN O E A T
STAPLE REGRET
E I L A E R
SURLY GLADLY

It's time to sit up when the world's best face off

Kohli may bat at No. 4 to accommodate Rohit, Dhawan and Rahul; Aussie pace battery on at full power

AUS IN INDIA

AMOL KARHADKAR
MUMBAI

At a time when bilateral cricket is jostling for relevance, sandwiched between the countdown to the T20 World Cup and the World Test Championship is a three-match ODI series between India and Australia, which starts at the Wankhede Stadium on Tuesday.

But, how relevant is relevance in the larger context, when the world's best two teams square off?

At full strength

Also, the fact that both teams are at full-strength is great news for aficionados and connoisseurs alike.

India captain Virat Kohli has no doubt there will be no dearth of intense action.

"When you are playing Australia, you don't look at the relevance of the series. It's about playing against the best. The way they are playing now, after Steve and David have come back, it's pretty intense," Kohli said.

"I think India and Australia are probably the top two sides in the world, as far as balance is concerned. Whether it's relevant or irre-



C'mon, boys! Virat Kohli leads Shreyas Iyer and Navdeep Saini at a practice session. •VIVEK BENDRE

levant that's for people to decide."

India has a tough choice to make when it comes to batting order, with all three specialist openers in sublime touch.

While batting coach Vikram Rathour had said on

Sunday either Shikhar Dhawan or K.L. Rahul would start the series along with Rohit Sharma, Kohli contradicted this stating the three could well feature in the starting line-up. In such a scenario, Kohli may move down to No. 4 from his cus-

tomary No. 3.

Australia, on the other hand, will be keen on unleashing its lethal pace trio of Mitchell Starc, Pat Cummins and Josh Hazlewood on India's famed batting order.

At the same time, Australia will be banking on Marnus

Labuschagne to carry his Test exploits into the ODI arena. If Labuschagne marks his debut by complementing veterans Steve Smith and David Warner on Tuesday, Aaron Finch's men can hope for an encore of its series victory last year.

The dates

- January 14, Mumbai
- January 17, Rajkot
- January 19, Bengaluru
- All matches begin at 1.30 p.m.

If the series-opener ends up a high-quality affair, the series will not at all struggle for relevance.

The teams (from):

India: Virat Kohli (Capt.), Rohit Sharma (Vice-Capt.), Shikhar Dhawan, K.L. Rahul, Shreyas Iyer, Manish Pandey, Kedar Jadhav, Rishabh Pant (wk), Shivam Dube, Ravindra Jadeja, Yuzvendra Chahal, Kuldeep Yadav, Navdeep Saini, Jasprit Bumrah, Shardul Thakur and Mohammed Shami.

Australia: Aaron Finch (Capt.), Ashton Agar, Alex Carey (Vice-Capt.), Pat Cummins (Vice-Capt.), Peter Handscomb, Josh Hazlewood, Marnus Labuschagne, Kane Richardson, D'Arcy Short, Steve Smith, Mitchell Starc, Ashton Turner, David Warner and Adam Zampa.

On-field umpires: Michael Gough, Richard Kettleborough; **TV umpire:** C. Shamshuddin; **Fourth umpire:** Virender Sharma. **Match referee:** Ranjan Madugalle.

Match starts at 1.30 p.m.

Kohli — looking at the larger picture

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

India captain Virat Kohli was at his eloquent best on Monday. *Excerpts:*

On batting lower down, if K.L. Rahul, Rohit Sharma and Shikhar Dhawan play

Yeah, big possibility, very happy to. I'm not possessive about where I play. Being the captain, it's my job to make sure that the next lot is also ready. The vision has to be about the larger picture. If at all someone has to take responsibility, it should be me.

Playing Australia

They are a stronger side than the one that came to India last time. But they still won that series. The series before that, they were at full strength but we won. You may have the best players, but if you don't play well as a team, you won't win. Shows you how competitive the series between these teams are... the margin is always 3-2 or 2-1.

They have played so much IPL they are pretty experienced in these conditions. It's always a challenge playing Australia, because of the skill-set and mind-set they bring onto the field.



Focused: Kohli's vision extends far beyond the present series against Australia. •VIVEK BENDRE

The opportunity to represent one's country doesn't come every day, it's up to you to make the most of it

ASHTON TURNER

Playing at the Wankhede

It's probably the best pitch to bat on in India. Not to take anything away from what bowlers can do here. When on a roll, they can pick up quick wickets.

In one-dayers you can get pace and bounce and sometimes seam as well under lights. It's probably, along with Adelaide, the best batting wicket I've played on.

Glittering stars



The guiding hands P. Gopi Chand and R.B. Ramesh receive the Coach of the Year award from Bhaichung Bhutia. L.V. Navaneeth, CEO, THG Publishing Pvt. Ltd., is also seen. •R. RAGU



Chairman's Choice: Earl Eddings, CA Chairman, collects the award from N. Ram on behalf of Steve Smith. •R. RAGU



Flashing the pearls: Leander Paes and Yuvraj Singh are all smiles after the former was feted. •R. RAGU



Manpreet Singh with Zafar Iqbal. •VIJAY SONEJI



Mehuli Ghosh. •R. RAGU



Annu Rani with Adille Sumariwalla. •VIJAY SONEJI



An inspiration: Ekta Bhyan, winner of the Para athlete of the year, with BSFI secretary Devendra Joshi, LIC MD T.C. Susheel Kumar and Puneet Mathur. •V.V. KRISHNAN



Standing in: Bishan Singh Bedi collects the Lifetime Achievement award on behalf of Kapil Dev. •R. RAGU

Lifetime Achievement honour for Kapil Dev; Sindhu is Sportstar of the Year

SHREEDUTTA CHIDANANDA
MUMBAI

P.V. Sindhu was adjudged the Sportstar of the Year and Kapil Dev honoured for Lifetime Achievement at the *Sportstar Aces Awards* here on Monday. Sindhu, who won a historic badminton World Championship gold in 2019, was also declared the Sportswoman of the Year (racquet sports) before an audience of some of the finest Indian sporting stars.

"When she was playing in the final of the World Championships, the streets in India were empty. That was wonderful to see," noted Vijay Amritraj, who hosted part of the ceremony. Sindhu, who is away in Jakarta for the Indonesia Masters, was represented at the event by coach P. Gopi Chand. "It was a great performance by her at the World Championships. This award will motivate her further during an Olympic year," he said.

Kapil, who led India to World Cup victory in 1983, expressed his happiness through a heartfelt video message. "You feel happy deep down when people recognize your talent," he said. "Every cricketer in our generation used to value *The Hindu's* coverage. I also have lots and lots of *Sportstar* magazines [at home]. My wife has kept cuttings. When you see

those pictures, it puts a smile on your face."

Rohit Sharma was chosen the Sportsman of the Year (Cricket) for a hugely successful 2019, when he finished the top run-scorer at the World Cup while also making a roaring start to life as a Test opener.

"*Sportstar* magazine was a huge part of my childhood. I remember competing in the *Sportstar* Trophy during my U-19 days, and collecting *Sportstar* posters. This award means a lot to me," Rohit said in an audio message.

Yuvraj Singh, who accepted the award on Rohit's behalf, spoke of his appetite for runs. "It's been a phenomenal year for Rohit. I remember when he came into the side he was a middle-order batsman. He still won a lot of games for India, scored seventies and eighties. Since he started opening, those seventies and eighties have become hundreds and double hundreds. He started to do really well [as an opener] in Test cricket this year, which was good to see," he said.

Smriti Mandhana emerged the Sportswoman of the Year (Cricket), and was presented the award by Cricket Australia director and former Australia women's cricketer Mel Jones. The awards' jury was chaired by Sunil Gavaskar and also comprised N. Ram,



Chairman, *The Hindu* Group, Viswanathan Anand, Aparna Popat, Anjali Bhagwat and M.M. Somaya.

The Chairman's Choice Award went to Australian batsman Steve Smith for his remarkable performance in the

Ashes, and was received on his behalf by Cricket Australia chair Earl Eddings. "We're not chauvinistic; we recognise great achievements wherever they are made," said Ram. "We honour him for his batting and his qualitative

achievements of skill, courage and character on top of his famous – some would say obsessive – work ethic over the part year. Steve Smith came back from the cold, from a life-changing and what at that time seemed a calamitous

setback. In coming back, he showed character by dominating the Ashes in England last year."

N. Murali, Chairman, Kasturi and Sons Ltd., Ayon Sengupta, Editor, *Sportstar*, and K.C. Vijaya Kumar, Sports Ed-

Acing the Awards

Sportsman of the Year (Cricket)	Rohit Sharma
Sportswoman of the Year (Cricket)	Smriti Mandhana
Sportsman of the Year (Track & Field)	Avinash Sable
Sportswoman of the Year (Track & Field)	Annu Rani
Sportsman of the Year (Team Sports)	Manpreet Singh
Sportswoman of the Year (Team Sports)	Deep Grace Ekka
Sportsman of the Year (Individual Sports)	Bajrang Punia
Sportswoman of the Year (Individual Sports)	Koneru Humpy & Apurvi Chandela
Sportsman of the Year (Racquet Sports)	B. Sai Praneeth
Sportswoman of the Year (Racquet Sports)	P. V. Sindhu
Sportsman of the Year (Para Sports)	Pramod Bhagat
Sportswoman of the Year (Para Sports)	Ekta Bhyan
Young Athlete of the Year (Boys)	R. Praggnanandhaa & Esow Alben
Young Athlete of the Year (Girls)	Mehuli Ghosh
Team of the Year	Indian Test Cricket Team
Coach of the Year	R. B. Ramesh & P. Gopi Chand
Best State for the Promotion of Sports	Odisha
Best PSU/Corporate House for the Promotion of Sports	Indian Oil Corporation Ltd
Best University for the Promotion of Sports	Sri Ramachandra Institute Of Higher Education And Research
Special Jury Award	Pankaj Advani
Special Recognition Award	Leander Paes
Chairman's Choice	Steve Smith
Lifetime Achievement	Kapil Dev
Sportstar of the Year	P. V. Sindhu



Special moment: Deep Grace Ekka receives the award from Ashok Kumar Singh while Ashish Nehra, left, and Tissot Brand Head Puneet Mathur look on. •VIJAY SONEJI



The jury: Sunil Gavaskar, centre, who helmed the panel that decided the winners, along with Aparna Popat, Anjali Bhagwat, M.M. Somaya, N. Ram and N. Murali. •V.V. KRISHNAN

itor, *The Hindu*, also addressed the gathering, which included Sourav Ganguly, Bhaichung Bhutia, Bishan Singh Bedi, Sharmila Tagore, and K. Srikanth. The Indian Test team was declared the Team of the Year while Gopi

Chand and R.B. Ramesh shared the Coach of the Year accolade. R. Praggnandhaa, Pankaj Advani, Mehuli Ghosh, Leander Paes, and Manpreet Singh were all among those feted on the evening.

TV PICKS

NBA: Sony ESPN (SD & HD), 6.30 a.m.
Ranji Trophy: Star Sports 3, 9.30 a.m.
Khelo India Youth Games: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 9.30 a.m. & 6 p.m.
India vs Australia: 1st ODI, Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), 1.30 p.m.
FA Cup: Sony Ten 2 (SD & HD), 1.30 a.m. (Wednesday)

IN BRIEF



Utah Jazz extends winning streak
LOS ANGELES
Croatia's Bojan Bogdanovic scored 31 points as Utah Jazz won its ninth straight game with a 127-116 victory over Washington Wizards on Sunday.
The results: New York Knicks 124 bt Miami Heat 121; Utah Jazz 127 bt Washington 116; Brooklyn Nets 108 bt Atlanta Hawks 86; San Antonio Spurs 105 bt Toronto Raptors 104; Memphis Grizzlies 122 bt Golden State Warriors 102; Denver Nuggets 114 bt Los Angeles Clippers 104; Phoenix Suns 100 bt Charlotte Hornets 92. AGENCIES



No clear favourites for Oz Open: Djokovic
SYDNEY
Defending champion Novak Djokovic insisted there are no clear favourites for the next week's Australian Open despite his ominous start to the season. "I don't think there are really clear favourites. You have obviously Federer, Nadal, myself because of the experience and everything and the rankings that we get to be probably named the top three favourites. But then you have Medvedev, (Stefanos) Tsitsipas, Dominic Thiem that are really showing some amazing tennis. So everybody keeps on talking about NextGen player winning a Slam. You know, it seems like it's getting closer," he said. AFP

Courtois is Real Madrid's hero

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE JEDDAH
Thibaut Courtois proved the hero on Sunday as Real Madrid beat city rival Atletico Madrid in a penalty shootout in Saudi Arabia to win its 11th Spanish Super Cup.
Two imperious goalkeepers came out on top during a goalless final in Jeddah but Belgian Courtois proved decisive, saving Thomas Parrey's penalty after Saul Niguez had already hit the post.
Sergio Ramos tucked away the winning spot-kick to ensure Real Madrid clinched its first trophy of the season.
Atletico might have won in extra-time when Alvaro Morata went through one-on-one but Real's Federico Valverde took a red card in exchange for fouling the striker from behind.
Victory maintains Zidane's spotless record as a coach in finals.
He has now led Madrid to success in three of three

Saran leaps to long jump gold

Haryana moves to the top spot in the medals table

KHELO INDIA

SPORTS BUREAU GUWAHATI
Tamil Nadu's S. Saran leaped 7.41m to take the boys' under-21 long jump gold medal in the Khelo India Youth Games here on Monday.
Slotted third behind Haryana's Bhpender Singh (7.30m) and Kerala's R. Sajjan (7.29m) after five rounds, Saran stunned the field with his sensational final jump.
Pavithra brought another gold medal for Tamil Nadu by winning the girls' under-21 pole vault with a performance of 3.50m.
Arvind Sharma of Delhi set a new meet record of 54.47m, bettering Ashish Kumar's 52.4m, to claim boys' under-17 discus crown.
Kiran of Rajasthan took the girls' under-17 discus title with a meet record of 44.77m, getting past Pooja's previous record of 41.01m.
Priscilla Daniel of Kerala clocked 2:11.81 for a new meet record in the girls' under-21 800m title. She bettered Ankita Chahel's old record of 2:13.81.

Jagdish on target
In archery, Rajasthan's Jagdish Choudhary got the better of Maharashtra's Sachin Vedwan 6-4 in the final to win the boys' under-21 recurve title.
Himani Kumari of Haryana pipped Tisha Sacheti, also from Maharashtra, 7-3 for the girls' gold medal.
Divyansh (Chandigarh) and Tisha Punia (Haryana) claimed top honours in under-17 boys' and girls' categories respectively.
The Tamil Nadu duo of Selena Deepthi and Deepika Neelakandan beat Kaushani Nath and Surbhi Patwari of West Bengal 11-8, 5-11, 11-7, 11-3 in the final to bag the

girls' under-21 doubles gold medal in table tennis.
Shubham Ambre and Chinmaya Somaya of Maharashtra defeated Jeet Chandra and Wesley Rosario of Haryana 11-5, 10-12, 11-9, 13-11 for the boys' under-21 doubles crown.
In gymnastics, Amruth Muradbet of Karnataka scored 12.24 points to claim the gold medal in boys' under-21 floor exercise.
Double joy for Ritu
Ritu Das of West Bengal won the girls' under-21 individual all-around (44.10) and uneven bars (10.30) crowns.
Rudraksh Patil of Maharashtra claimed the 10m air rifle gold in boys' under-17 with a consistent showing in qualifying (627.2 points) and in the final where he beat Keval Prapajati (Gujarat) quite comfortably.
Haryana leapfrogged Maharashtra to take the top spot with a total of 47 medals, including 17 gold. Maharashtra, which had a bigger aggregate of 71 medals, was second with 16 gold.



That's it! Pradeep Senthil of Tamil Nadu celebrates his win in the under-17 800m event. ■ RITU RAJ KONWAR



Champion stuff: Delhi's Preeti on her way to the gold in the under-21 400m hurdles on Monday. ■ RITU RAJ KONWAR

Aryaan knocks out third seed Lin

Dabas downs Woobin after losing the first set

ITF TENNIS

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI
Aryaan Bhatia knocked out third seed Han-Chih Lin of Chinese Taipei 6-4, 6-4 in the first round of the ITF grade-2 junior tennis tournament at the DLTA Complex here on Monday.
In the pre-quarterfinals, Aryaan will face qualifier Clement Mainguy of Vanuatu.
Nishant Dabas downed

Korea's Shiin Woobin after losing the first set and set up a second round against fourth-seeded Chinese Huag Haoyuan.
Chirag Duhan lost his way from the brink of victory against Taym Alazmeh of Syria, who recorded a 2-6, 7-6 (5), 7-5 victory.
The results (first round):
Boys: Jean Marc Malkowski (Sui) bt Sammr Raina 6-2, 2-6, 6-1; Danil Ozerov (Kaz) bt Tanapatt Nirundorn (Tha) 6-1, 3-6, 6-2; Huang Haoyuan (Chn)

bt Daisuke Inagawa (Jpn) 6-4, 6-1; Nishant Dabas bt Shin Woobin (Kor) 3-6, 6-1, 6-1; Danniil Ibragimov (Rus) bt Ajay Malik 6-1, 6-3.
Dong Bohua (Chn) bt Samer Al Tori (Isr) 6-1, 6-1; Mitsuki Wei Kang Leong (Mas) bt Amaan Adil Tezabwala 6-0 6-2; Clement Mainguy (Van) bt Kartik Saxena 6-4, 6-3; Aryaan Bhatia bt Han-Chih Linn (Tpe) 6-4, 6-4.
Yamato Sueoka (Jpn) bt Uddayvir Singh 6-0, 6-0; Taym Alazmeh (Syr) bt Chirag Duhan 2-6, 7-6(5), 7-5.

Girls: Weronika Baszak (Pol) bt Suhitha Maruri 6-2, 6-2; Eva Gartseva (Rus) bt Lakshmi Goowda 6-2, 6-0; Kim Yujinn (Kor) bt Hu Xinyue (Chn) 4-6, 6-2, 6-4; Carol Annn Delaunay (Cal) bt Nandini Dixit 6-2, 6-3.
Jasmine Conway (GBR) bt Salakshith Ounmuang (Tha) 6-4, 6-2; Tijana Sretenovic (Srb) bt Alessandra Simone (Ita) 6-3, 6-2.
Huang Jiaqi (Chn) bt Sanjana Sirimalla 6-4, 6-0; Yu-Yun Li (Tpe) bt Sanvi Alhluwalia 6-4, 6-0; Maria Shlokhova (Rus) bt Sandeepthi Singh Rao 6-4, 6-0.

Champions League, two each in the Club World Cup and UEFA Super Cup, and now one in the Spanish Super Cup.
The focus before the tournament was more on the decision of the Spanish Football Federation (RFEF) to move this year's Super Cup – a four-team competition rather than a straight final – away from Spain and to Saudi Arabia, despite the country's long-criticised treatment of women and record on human rights.
Before the final, RFEF president Luis Rubiales said he was "very happy" with how the format had panned out. "We have to improve things because it is a country that



On cloud nine: Real Madrid players celebrate winning the Spanish Super Cup. ■ AFP

Mr. Baahubali wins Hovercraft Plate

HYDERABAD: Mr. Ashok Chukkla's Mr. Baahubali (Ajeeth Kumar up) won the Hovercraft Plate, the main event of the races held here on Monday (Jan. 13). S. Sreekanth trains the winner.
1 TWIN STAR PLATE (DIV. II), (1,100m), 4-y-o & over, rated 00 to 25 (Cat. II): **BLAZING JUPITER** (Rohit Kumar) 1, Crackershow (Deepak Singh) 2, Secret Command (Santosh Raj) 3 and Let It Be Me (Jitendra Singh) 4. 1, nk and 1/2. Im, 6.66s. ₹129 (w), 23, 7 and 7 (p), SHP: 23, FP: 608, Q: 239, Tla: 1.791. Favourite: Secret Command. Owners: Mr. Shyam Sunder Jakkula & Dr. Veerathu Santaiah. Trainer: Satyanarayana.
2 SECUNDERABAD CLUB PLATE (DIV. III), (1,100m), 4-y-o & over, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III): **WAH MS ZARA** (Akshay Kumar) 1, Ursula

(Rafique Sk.) 2, California Beauty (B.R. Kumar) 3 and Composure (Jitendra Singh) 4. 1/2, 1-1/2 and 2. Im, 5.92s. ₹9 (w), 7, 13 and 6 (p), SHP: 57, FP: 191, Q: 134, Tla: 4.48. Favourite: Wah Ms Zara. Owners: Mr. Sarasam Madhusudan Reddy. Trainer: Ravinder Singh.
3 TWIN STAR PLATE (DIV. I), (1,100m), 4-y-o & over, rated 00 to 25 (Cat. II): **LATEST NEWS** (Kiran Naidu) 1, Ashwa Yuth Vijeta (N. Rawal) 2, Brave Syera (Mukesh Kumar) 3 and Whiskey (Abhay Singh) 4. Nk, 1/2 and 2. Im, 7.51s. ₹37 (w), 9, 7 and 7 (p), SHP: 17, FP: 133, Q: 59, Tla: 301. Favourite: Ashwa Yuth Vijeta. Owners: M/s. Raoful Ali Khan, Sreeramulu Bommesiherty & T.N. Mehta. Trainer: D. Netto.

4 SECUNDERABAD CLUB PLATE (DIV. II), (1,100m), 4-y-o & over, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III): **BLAZING SPEED** (Ajeeth Kumar) 1, Sea Wolf (Akshay Kumar) 2, Tapatia (A.A. Vikrant) 3 and Takisha (Afroz Khan) 4. 1-1/4, shd and 3/4. Im, 5.92s. ₹85 (w), 18, 9 and 8 (p), SHP: 23, FP: 307, Q: 132, Tla: 901. Favourite: Stepper. Owner: Dr. G. Lakshmi Prasad. Trainer: S. Sreekanth.
5 AUXILIARY PLATE (DIV. I), (1,200m), 5-y-o & over, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II): **TRUMP GIRL** (Koushik) 1, Once More (Santosh Raj) 2, Proud Warrior (B.R. Kumar) 3 and Top Contender (Afroz Khan) 4. 2-3/4, 3/4 and shd. Im, 11.31s. ₹9 (w), 6, 31 and 10 (p), SHP: 115, FP: 313, Q: 363, Tla: 1.992. Favourite: Trump Girl. Owners: Mr. Eswarachandra Ra-

jagopal Tripuraneni & Mr. Vijay Anand Jangiti. Trainer: H.R. Saequir.
6 HOVERCRAFT PLATE (1,600m), 5-y-o & over, rated 60 to 85 (Cat. II): **MR. BAAHUBALI** (Ajeeth Kumar) 1, That's My Class (Akshay Kumar) 2, Seven Eleven (Ashhad Asbar) 3 and Shaquille (A.A. Vikram) 4. 2-3/4, 3/4 and hd. Im, 37.46s. ₹126 (w), 23, 7 and 12 (p), SHP: 18, FP: 637, Q: 188, Tla: 4.126. Favourite: Shaquille. Owner: Mr. Ashok Chukkla. Trainer: S. Sreekanth.
7 AUXILIARY PLATE (DIV. II), (1,200m), 5-y-o & over, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II): **LOCH STELLA** (Nakhat Singh) 1, N R I Power (Koushik) 2, Running Fire (B.R. Kumar) 3 and Lightning Fin (Akshay Kumar) 4. Shd, 2 and nk. Im, 11.82s. ₹81 (w), 18, 15 and 25

(p), SHP: 34, FP: 709, Q: 310, Tla: 10.631. Favourite: Lightning Fin. Owner: Mr. A.C. Muthalik. Trainer: Satheesh.
8 SECUNDERABAD CLUB PLATE (DIV. I), (1,100m), 4-y-o & over, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III): **SHAKE-SPHERE** (Mukesh Kumar) 1, Star Racer (Rohit Kumar) 2, Green Turf (Akshay Kumar) 3 and Dillon (Ajeeth Kumar) 4. Hd, 1-1/2 and 2. Im, 6.42s. ₹90 (w), 27, 8 and 7 (p), SHP: 22, FP: 943, Q: 427, Tla: 3.821. Favourite: Green Turf. Owner: Mr. M. Madhukar. Trainer: M.F. Alikhan.
Jkt: ₹7,94,802 (one tkt.), Runner-up: 21,289 (16 tkts.), Mini Jkt: 1,85,663 (c/o), Tr (i): 1,632 (31 tkts.), (ii): 4,431 (13 tkts.), (iii): 51,991 (two tkts.).

Big achievement



Recognition: Odisha Sports Minister Tusharkranti Behara receives the Best State for Promotion of Sports Award at the Sportstar Aces Awards in Mumbai on Monday. deed ■ R. RAGU

RANJI SCORES, ROUND FIVE, DAY THREE

Group A
At Ongole: Hyderabad 225 & 45/3 in 20 overs vs Andhra 489/8 decl. in 153 overs (C.R. Gnaneshwar 73, D.B. Prashanth Kumar 119, Hanuma Vi-hari 55, Ricky Bhui 69, Karan Shinde 94).
Thiruvananthapuram: Kerala 227 & 136 in 39.5 overs (Gurkeerat Mann 4/45, Siddharth Kaul 5/39) bt Punjab 218 & 124 in 46.1 overs (Jalaj Saxena 7/51). **Points: Kerala 6 (9), Punjab 0 (18).**
Jaipur: Gujarat 325 vs Rajasthan 327/7 in 122 overs (Yash Kothari 45, Manender Singh 72, Ashok Menaria 86 batting, Shubham Sharma 42).
Group B
New Delhi: Madhya Pradesh 124 & 308/5 in 86 overs (Naman Ojha 118, Yash Dubey 79 batting) vs Railways 244.
Chennai: Mumbai 488 vs Tamil Nadu 249/7 in 121 overs (Abhinav Mukund 58, L. Suryap-rakash 41, M. Kaushik Gandhi 60).
Kanpur: Uttar Pradesh 431 vs Baroda 179/8 in 79 overs (Aditya Waghmode 49, Vishnu Solanki 91).

Rajkot: Saurashtra 581/7 decl. vs Karnataka 171 in 79 overs (R. Samarth 63, Pravin Dubey 46 n.o., Jaydev Unadkat 5/49) & 30/0 in 16 overs.
Group C
Guwahati: Chhattisgarh 318 & 25/1 in 10 overs vs Assam 464/9 decl. in 150 overs (Rishav Das 99, Gokul Sharma 129, Riyan Parag 60, Saahil Jain 88).
Lahli: Haryana 90 & 248 in 86.1 overs (Shubham Rohilla 48, Ankit Kumar 46, Himanshu Rana 40, Suryakant Pradhan 5/86) vs Odisha 160 & 147/7 in 50 overs (Ajit Chahal 6/65).
New Delhi: Jammu & Kashmir 360 & 184/5 in 63 overs (Shubham Pundir 90 batting, Parvez Rasool 45) vs Services 242 in 77.5 overs (Arjun Sharma 47, Arun Bamaal 48, Diwesh Pathania 41).
Nagothane: Maharashtra 434 vs Jharkhand 170 in 73 overs (Saurabh Tiwari 62, Virat Singh 43, Satyajeeet Bachhav 5/55) & 47/1 in 16 overs.
Agartala: Uttarakhand 90 & 21/1 in 11 overs vs Tripura 279/5

decl. in 70.4 overs (Samrat Singha 58 n.o., Rajat Dey 54, Harmeet Singh 102).
Plate
Sovima: Nagaland 534/7 decl. & 10/0 in 6 overs vs Arunachal Pradesh 460 in 118.5 overs (Rahul Dalal 267 n.o., Akhilesh Sahani 65, Shrikant Mundhe 4/96, Imliwati Lemtur 5/123).
Chandigarh: Sikkim 264 & 69/3 in 26 overs vs Chandigarh 360 in 97.4 overs (Uday Kaul 44, Raman Bishnoi 51, Bipul Sharma 58, Gurinder Singh 99, Ishwar Chaudhary 4/105, Iqbal Abdulla 4/89).
Puducherry: Goa 270 & 229/5 in 83 overs (Smit Patel 60, Snehal Kauthankar 64 batting, Darshan Misal 48 batting) vs Pondicherry 260.
Balughat: Bihar 431 bt Manipur 94 in 38.1 overs (Abhijeet Saket 7/43) & 154 in 43.4 overs (Rex Singh 77 n.o., Shivam Kumar 4/68). **Bihar 7 (15), Manipur 0 (12).**
Kolkata (second day): Meghalaya 662/4 decl. in 125 overs (Dippu Sangma 114, Dwaraka Ravi Teja 204 n.o., Sanjay Yadav 254 n.o.) vs Mizoram 114/7 in 55 overs.

Dwayne Bravo earns T20I recall

Ends three-year exile as he is named in the WI squad

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE ST. GEORGE'S (GRENADA)
Dwayne Bravo was recalled to the West Indies squad on Sunday, more than three years after his last appearance as the Caribbean side builds up to the defence of its title.
The 36-year-old all-rounder, a two-time winner, was named in a 13-man squad for a three-match series against Ireland later this month.
However, the West Indies is thinking long-term with the next World Cup in the game's shortest format taking place in Australia in October and November.
Bravo last played for the T20 side against Pakistan in September 2016 before he quit to concentrate on franchise cricket.
"Dwayne Bravo was re-



called with the specific intention of bolstering our 'death' bowling which was identified as an area that really needs improving," said West Indies chief selector Roger Harper.
"His record in this department speaks for itself. He will also be able to act as a mentor to the other 'death' bowlers and lend his experience wherever needed."
Bravo has played 66 T20

internationals for West Indies, taking 52 wickets and scoring 1,142 runs. However, his career has often been controversial. He played the last of his 40 Tests in 2010 and was dumped as ODI skipper in 2014 after leading a walkout during a tour of India over a pay dispute.
Fellow all-rounder Rovman Powell has also been recalled having played 23 T20 internationals. Jason Holder, the team's regular skipper, is being rested just as he was for the three ODIs against Ireland, a series which ended on Sunday.
The squad : Kieron Pollard (Capt.), Dwayne Bravo, Sheldon Cottrell, Shimron Hetmyer, Brandon King, Evin Lewis, Khary Pierre, Nicholas Pooran, Rovman Powell, Sherfane Rutherford, Lendl Simmons, Hayden Walsh and Kesrick Williams.

Sri Lanka to leave for Zimbabwe

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE COLOMBO
Sri Lanka's cricket team will leave for Zimbabwe on Thursday to play a two-match Test series – the first since the African host nation's suspension was lifted by the ICC.
Both Tests will be held in Harare, the first from Sunday and the second starting

on January 27th, Sri Lanka Cricket said on Monday.
However, SLC is yet to announce the squad for the two matches.
Zimbabwe last played a Test in November 2018 when it toured Bangladesh.
The country was barred from ICC events in July last year because of political interference but was readmit-

ted by the International Cricket Council three months later.
Political turmoil within the sport and a string of humiliating performances led Zimbabwe to suspend its Test involvement in 2005, although it continued to play One-Day Internationals and Twenty20 Internationals.

Bangladesh no to Test series in Pakistan

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE DHAKA
Bangladesh decided to stay firm in its decision to just play three Twenty20 internationals in Pakistan later this month, dismissing a Pakistani proposal to take part in a full Test series.
Bangladesh Cricket Board president Nazmul Hassan on Sunday said the recent tension in the Middle East between Iran and the United States was the main reason

behind the decision as the government had given the board permission to send the team only for a short period.
"The current state in the Middle East is definitely different from other times. So considering escalating tension in that particular region, they (the government) have told us to keep the tour as short as possible," Hassan told reporters here after a meeting of the BCB board.
"They (government auth-

orities) have told us to play the three Twenty20s as quickly as possible in a short period.
Later, if the situation improves, we can play the Test matches. We are going to communicate the same thing to Pakistan Cricket Board," he said.
According to the ICC's Future Tour Programme, Bangladesh is scheduled to play three T20Is and two Tests in Pakistan in January-February.

Hardik has a go in the nets

Turns his arm over, bowling coach Arun monitors him



Fun time: Hardik does a guest appearance at the Indian training session. • VIVEK BENDRE

CRICKET

AMOL KARHADKAR
MUMBAI

A day after officially being ruled of the India-A tour of New Zealand, allrounder Hardik Pandya made an appearance at India's training session at the Wankhede Stadium here

on Monday.

After a brief chat Hardik turned his arm over with bowling coach B. Arun monitoring him from the umpire's position and team physiotherapist Nitin Patel observing the action from behind the nets.

Fielding drills

Hardik also went through

some fielding drills, besides escorting a security guard who was hit by a ball for medical attention.

While there was no official word about Hardik's progress, don't be surprised if Hardik is considered for the three ODIs in New Zealand next month!

Chinglensana back, Varun misses out

India takes on The Netherlands in season-opener in Bhubaneswar

HOCKEY PRO LEAGUE

UTHRA GANESAN
NEW DELHI

Experienced Chinglensana Singh returned to the Indian team after almost a year while youngster Sumit too made the cut for the 20-member Indian men's hockey team that will take on World No. 3 the Netherlands in the FIH Hockey Pro League 2020 season-opener later this week.

India will play the first of its four home fixtures of the competition on January 18 and 19 in Bhubaneswar.

While Chinglensana suffered an ankle fracture during the final of the ninth National Championships in February last year in February – he led Railways to a title triumph – Sumit had suffered a wrist injury during the FIH Men's Series Finals in June 2019, which India won.

“We have chosen a relatively experienced team.

“While Varun will be back in training this week, he wasn't considered for selection. Chinglensana and Su-



Adding power: With Chinglensana, right, who returns from an injury-forced hiatus, and Kothajit, India will be hoping to start the Hockey Pro League season well. ■ FILE PHOTO: SHREEDUTTA CHIDANANDA

mit, coming back from long injury lay-offs, have been training well and are physically fit,” chief coach Graham Reid said.

“It will be important to start strong and sharp in the Pro League with our first three ties being against the top-three teams in the world.

“We will be focussing on getting our structures right

as preparation for our Olympic campaign,” added Reid.

Gurjant too returns

Also coming back after a long hiatus was striker Gurjant Singh, who was part of the 2016 junior World Cup side but failed to cement his place in the senior side, after impressing the team management during the national camps.

Lewis ton leads series sweep

Windies reach rain-revised target of 197 with plenty to spare

WI VS IRELAND

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
ST. GEORGE'S (GRENADA)

Evin Lewis smashed a dazzling century as West Indies defeated Ireland by five wickets on Sunday to complete a 3-0 sweep of the One-Day International series.

Opener Lewis hit his third one-day ton off 96 balls with six boundaries and five huge sixes at the National Stadium here as West Indies reached its rain-revised target of 197 with 64 balls to spare.

The 28-year-old, left-handed Lewis had made an unbeaten 99 in the first game in Barbados which his team won also by five wickets. “All the hard work I've done in the nets has paid off,” Trinidadian Lewis said at the trophy presentation.

“This was an opportunity for my first hundred in the Caribbean, and it's great to get a series win. I've been hungry for runs.”

Lewis had reached his 50 off 41 balls while laying the foundation for a comfortable win thanks to a 100-run partnership with Brandon King (38 off 43 balls) for the third wicket.

He reached his century with a mid-wicket flourish off medium-pacer Craig Young before falling next ball trying for a big drive, caught by Kevin O'Brien.

Rain stoppage

By then the West Indies was only five short of its target which had been revised after a brief rain stoppage.

Young suffered the worst punishment with his nine overs yielding just one wicket for 57 runs.

Nicholas Pooran con-



Smashing knock: Lewis hit his third one-day ton off 96 balls with six boundaries and five huge sixes. ■ FILE PHOTO: K.V.S. GIRI

firmed his stature in the West Indies middle-order with an unbeaten 43 off 44 balls. Earlier, leg-spinner Hayden Walsh took four wickets as Ireland was dismissed for 203.

Walsh, who starred with the bat with an undefeated 46 in Thursday's nail-biting one-wicket win in Barbados, finished with figures of four for 36. Recalled fast bowler Oshane Thomas claimed three for 41. Walsh took the prime wicket of Ireland skipper Andy Balbirnie whose impressive innings of 71 ended when he pushed the ball to point and was caught.

For Balbirnie, it was his ninth ODI half-century while his innings featured six boundaries and two sixes. Andy McBrine was Ireland's second highest scorer with

an unbeaten 25.

“We've managed to get in but not kick off, we were out-classed today but we can take improvements from the three games,” insisted Balbirnie, whose side were playing a series for the first time in six months.

“We don't have the quickest bowlers in the world or the biggest turners, but we can be disciplined. The second game was a big positive, we just didn't have that composure.” The two sides now play a three-game T20 series from Wednesday.

The scores: Ireland 203 in 49.1 overs (A. Balbirnie 71; H. Walsh 4/36, O. Thomas 3/41) lost to West Indies 199/5 in 36.2 overs (E. Lewis 102, N. Pooran 43) (West Indies won by five wickets with 64 balls to spare via D/L method).

ICC plans to expand T20 WC

Says it is the best way to increase the reach of the sport

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LONDON

The International Cricket Council (ICC) is considering expanding the T20 World Cup from 16 to 20 teams from the 2023-31 cycle, according to a media report here.

The ICC, which views the T20 format as the best way to increase the reach of the sport, is mulling the option as a way for cricket to try and match the popularity of sports like football and basketball, according to the *Telegraph.co.uk*

The newspaper reported

■ A bigger tournament will also increase the likelihood of the participation of the USA, a market where ICC has recently made several attempts to spread the sport

that this consideration is “a part of broader discussions for the shape of international cricket calendar from 2023-2031”. The first T20 World Cup in this cycle is scheduled for 2024.

The ICC had earlier put forward a proposal to organise a flagship event every

year as a plan to enter the global media rights markets and the bigger T20 World Cup will also increase the viewership.

A bigger tournament will also increase the likelihood of the participation of the USA, a market where ICC has recently made several attempts to spread the sport. Other teams that could take part are Canada, Germany, Nepal and Nigeria.

Two options

The ICC is looking at two options for the format if the tournament expands to 20

teams. One of the options is the current two-tier format used in the T20 World Cup with lower-ranked teams playing the qualifiers to reach the main draw which includes the top countries.

Second possibility

The second possibility could be four groups of five teams each with the top sides from each group progressing to the knockout stage.

The ICC is carrying out several discussions about the future of the sport, including shortening of five-day Tests to four days.

Himal Gusain stuns Visakh

Jumps to the joint second spot after seven rounds

CHESS

RAKESH RAO
NEW DELHI

It is a rarity to find a Chandi-garh-based player getting the better of a Grandmaster from Tamil Nadu. Himal Gusain pulled off the improbable at the expense of N.R. Vishakh and jumped to the joint second spot after seven rounds of the Delhi International Open Grandmasters chess tournament here on Monday.

With 11 of the top-15 boards ending in draws, leader Aleksey Aleksandrov easily continued his reign at the top with 6.5 points. His compatriot from Belarus Alexie Fedorov and Gusain followed at six points. A bunch of 14 players were at 5.5 points.

In the midst of the drawn games, 33-move victories for



Well-planned: Himal Gusain's victory over GM N.R. Visakh was the outcome of some smart pawn-play. ■ CHESSBASE INDIA

Gusain and Fedorov stood out.

Gusain's triumph over Visakh, following the opening sequence of Sicilian Defence, was the result of some smart pawn-play. Once most of the major pieces were ex-

changed, Gusain's advancing queen-rook pawn, with knight providing the guiding light, left Visakh with no choice but to give up.

Fedorov's victory was made easy with a tactical sequence that helped him

emerge with a rook for a bishop. Ortim Nigmatov resigned when he saw no way of saving the bishop.

Top seed Farrukh Amonatov drew for the third round on the trot while second seed Pavel Ponkratov ended his four-draw sequence with his third win.

Important results (seventh round): Aleksey Aleksandrov (Blr, 6.5) drew with Adam Tukhaev (Ukr, 5.5); Florian Kuczur (5.5) drew with Jose Eduardo Martinez Alcantra (Per, 5.5); Karthik Venkatraman (5.5) drew with Ivan Rozum (Rus, 5.5).

Alexei Fedorov (Blr, 6) bt Ortim Nigmatov (Uzb, 5); Dip-tayan Ghosh (5.5) drew with Maxim Lugovskoy (Rus, 5.5); Himal Gusain (6) bt N.R. Visakh (5); M. Pranesh (5.5) drew with Kirill Stupak (Blr, 5.5); P. Shyam Nikhil (5) drew with Farrukh Amonatov (Tjk, 5); C.R.G. Krishna (4.5) lost to Abhijeet Gupta (5.5); Sayantan Das (4.5) lost to Nodirbek Yakubboev (Uzb, 5.5).

Anand loses to Wesley So

TATA STEEL MASTERS

SPORTS BUREAU
WIJK AAN ZEE

Viswanathan Anand crashed to a surprise 26-move defeat to Wesley So in the second round of the Tata Steel Masters chess tournament here on Sunday.

On a day when four players won with white pieces, Anand was apparently surprised by the choice of line chosen by So in Giuoco Piano.

Anand sacrificed a piece in vain to get out of trouble and then missed a possible way drawing the game before giving up.

Five in lead

Five players shared the lead with 1.5 points.

In Group B, Surya Shekhar Ganguly (1.5) and Nihal Sarin (1) played with black and drew their games against Lucas van Foreest and Pavel Eljanov, respectively.

The results: Second round: Wesley So (USA, 1.5) bt Viswanathan Anand (0.5); Xiong Jeffery (USA, 1.5) bt Jorden van Foreest (Ned, 1); Vladislav Artemiev (Rus, 1.5) bt Nikita Vitiugov (Rus, 0.5).

Daniil Dubov (Rus, 1.5) bt Vladislav Kovalev (Blr, 0); Anish Giri (Ned, 1) drew with Fabiano Caruana (USA, 1); Jan-Krzysztof Duda (Pol, 1) drew with Alireza Firouzja (FIDE, 1.5); Yu Yangyi (Chn, 0.5) drew with Magnus Carlsen (Nor, 1).

Momota injured, driver killed in road mishap



The van in which Momota was travelling when the accident happened. ■ AP

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
KUALA LUMPUR
Badminton World No. 1 Kento Momota was injured and his driver killed in a crash near here on Monday, just hours after he won the Malaysia Masters.

Police said the Japanese star, 25, suffered a broken nose and cuts to his face when the van carrying him to the city's airport crashed early in the morning.

The driver was killed at the scene after the vehicle collided with a slow-moving lorry on a highway. An assistant coach, physiotherapist, and badminton official also suffered minor injuries.

The accident came after the dominant Japanese star began his 2020 season in style on Sunday with victory over Viktor Axelsen in Kuala Lumpur. “It's truly tragic, especially involving a badminton icon like Momota,” Malaysia Sports Minister Syed Saddiq told reporters after visiting the injured in hospital. But, he added, those hurt were “recovering well, (and) all four are also in stable condition”.

The others suffered facial, leg, hand and head injuries, according to the police. The accident happened around 4:40 a.m. local time, and 10 firefighters rushed to the scene, senior fire and rescue department official Norazam Khamis said. The injured “were able to walk out of the van by themselves with some scratches”. Pictures showed the front of the van crushed against a lorry but the back section appeared intact.

Ronaldo sends Juve to the top; extends goal-scoring streak to six games

SERIE A

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MILAN

Cristiano Ronaldo stretched his goal-scoring streak to six consecutive league games as Juventus took top spot in Serie A on Sunday with a 2-1 win at Roma, whose defeat was made worse by the cruciate ligament injury of rising star Nicolo Zaniolo.

Juventus moves two points ahead of Inter Milan, which was held 1-1 by Atalanta at the San Siro on Saturday, to move top after going two goals up in just 10 minutes in Rome.

Turkish defender Merih Demiral found a way through after three minutes when he connected with a Paulo Dybala free-kick.

Minutes later Argentine Dybala was hauled down in

the box, and Ronaldo stepped up to convert from the spot to make it nine goals in six league games.

Casualties

Both sides had casualties in the first half with Demiral limping off with a knee injury not long after scoring his first Juventus goal, and replaced by Matthijs de Ligt.

And 20-year-old Zaniolo was stretchered off in tears eight minutes before the break after falling victim what Roma later confirmed was a ruptured anterior cruciate ligament in his right knee as he tried to pass between de Ligt and Adrien Rabiot.

Zaniolo was a rare bright points for Roma in a torrid first half, will undergo surgery on Monday.

Roma had its chances with Edin Dzeko hitting the



Account opening: Merih Demiral, centre, celebrates scoring his first goal for Juventus. ■ AFP

post and Wojciech Szczesny denying Cengiz Under from point-blank range, and Die-

go Perotti pulled a goal back for the host from the penalty spot on 68 minutes after

an Alex Sandro handball. However the capital side fell to its second straight

home defeat to drop to fifth, outside the Champions League places, level on 35 points with fourth-placed Atalanta and seven behind Lazio.

Berenguer scores

Earlier Alejandro Berenguer struck the only goal as Torino beat Bologna to climb to seventh.

Spaniard Berenguer finished off a cross from captain Andrea Belotti on 11 minutes as Torino moves two points off sixth-placed Cagliari, which is in the last Europa League place.

Hellas Verona is two points behind Torino in eighth after snatching a 2-1 win over Genoa in a game which was delayed for 15 minutes in order to redo the uneven lines of the two penalty areas.

A pitch inspection at Ve-

rona's Stadio Bentegodi before the the home side's win –which also left Genoa in the relegation zone –found that the lines marking the penalty box were visibly not straight.

Sampdoria moves five points clear of the drop zone with veteran striker Fabio Quagliarella scoring a brace in its thumping 5-1 win over Brescia.

The results:

Serie A: Hellas Verona 2 (Verre 55-pen, Zaccagni 65) bt Genoa 1 (Sanabria 41); Roma 1 (Perotti 68-pen) lost to Juventus 2 (Demiral 3, Ronaldo 10-pen).

Torino 1 (Berenguer 11) bt Bologna 0; Sampdoria 5 (Linetti 34, Jankto 45+3, Quagliarella 69-pen, 90+2, Caprari 77) bt Brescia 1 (Chancellor 12); Fiorentina 1 (Pezzella 82) bt SPAL 0.