



## Partial relief

Supreme Court allows Congress MP Karti Chidambaram to withdraw the ₹20 crore, deposited with court registry earlier as a condition for allowing him to travel abroad

## SHORT TAKES

### 'DR BOMB' ARRESTED IN KANPUR

**Mumbai, Jan 17:** A convict in the 1993 Mumbai serial bomb blasts case, Jalees Ansari, who went "missing" while on parole, was arrested on Friday from Kanpur in Uttar Pradesh, an official said.

Ansari (68), a Mumbai resident, who was serving a life term in a Rajasthan jail, was nabbed in a joint operation of Maharashtra's Anti-Terrorism Squad and the Uttar Pradesh Special Task Force (STF), the official said.

Ansari, known as 'Dr Bomb' for his suspected involvement in more than 52 blast cases across the country, went "missing" on early Thursday morning.

He was on a 21-day parole and was expected to return to Ajmer Central Jail by Friday evening after end of the parole period, he said.

Ansari, a resident of Mominpura in Agrpada in central Mumbai, is an MBBS doctor by training.

While on parole, he was ordered to visit the Agrpada police station everyday between 10.30 am and 12 pm to mark attendance, he said.

However, Ansari did not visit the police station on Thursday during the designated time, the official said.

In the afternoon, his 35-year-old son, Jaid Ansari, approached the police station with a complaint about his "missing" father, he said.

According to the complaint, Jalees Ansari woke up in the early hours and told family members he is going to offer namaz, but did not return home.

Acting on his complaint, the Agrpada police registered a missing case, the official said.

The Crime Branch of the Mumbai Police, the Maharashtra ATS and other agencies launched a massive manhunt for the terror convict, he said.

### GO TO PAK, TEACHER TELLS GIRLS

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, JAN. 17

A teacher of a government girls school in Kodungallur in Thrissur district of Kerala was placed under suspension after he allegedly asked students to pack off to Pakistan if they were unwilling to accept the Citizenship Amendment Act. The officials of the general education department said that the disciplinary action was initiated on Thursday against Kaleshan, who taught Hindi in the school.

The decision to suspend him was taken after the deputy director of education department conducted a detailed inquiry into the incident.

The father of a student had filed a complaint through the social media and the authorities took cognizance of the matter and ordered the probe.

### MEGA JOB MELA IN KANDHAMAL

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
HYDERABAD, JAN. 17

As many as 7,000 rural youths were placed in 71 companies at the two-day mega job mela in Kandhamal parliamentary constituency, organised at the initiative of Dr Achyuta Samanta, Kandhamal Lok Sabha MP, in cooperation with the district administration.

The mega job mela was a resounding success with rural youths, mostly having under matric qualifications, getting jobs with salary ranging from ₹10,000 to ₹20,000 in well established companies. The companies will provide other facilities, in addition to salary.

On January 9, the mega job mela was held at Phulbani, the district headquarters of Kandhamal.

More than 12,000 youths from Phulbani, Kotagarh, Tumudibandh, Baliguda, K. Nuagaon, Daringbadi, Raikola, G. Udaygiri, Tikabali, Chakapada, Phiringia, Khajuripada block and Phulbani Municipality area of Kandhamal district, Gania, Daspala and Nuagaon block of Nayagarh district Bhanjanagar and Jagannath Prasad of Ganjam district attended the job mela and out of them 10,000 registered their name for placement. As many as 6,300 were selected for placement. 21 companies participated, selecting 700 youths.

# Punjab moves resolution to repeal CAA

Just like Kerala, Punjab says it will move Supreme Court against the Citizenship Amendment Act

**Chandigarh, Jan. 17:** Calling the Citizenship Amendment Act "inherently discriminatory", the Punjab Assembly on Friday adopted a resolution by voice vote seeking its immediate repeal and Chief Minister Amarinder Singh announced that his government would approach the Supreme Court against it, the second state after Kerala to do so.

The ruling Congress, main opposition Aam Aadmi Party and the Lok Insaaf Party supported the resolution saying the

law would "spoil the secular fabric of the country", but the BJP opposed it.

The opposition Shiromani Akali Dal, an ally of the BJP, sought inclusion of Muslim in the list of communities that would be granted citizenship under the amended law.

The CAA provides for granting citizenship for Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians, who had migrated to India before December 31, 2014, from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan.

**Q** Where will the poor go and from where will they procure their birth certificates? This is a great tragedy.

— **AMARINDER SINGH**  
Punjab Chief Minister

Contending that the Act was a "negation of the secular fabric on the Constitution", the Assembly passed the resolution, moved by parliamentary affairs minister Brahm Mohindra, after

three hours of discussion. The Kerala Assembly was the first to pass a resolution against the amended Citizenship Act. Kerala has also moved to Supreme Court against the law.

Chief Minister Amarinder Singh said the Centre would have to make the necessary amendments to the CAA, if it had to be implemented in Punjab and other states opposing the legislation.

"Like Kerala, our government will also approach the Supreme Court on the issue, he later

told reporters outside the Assembly.

In response to a question, he made it clear that the census in Punjab would be conducted on the old parameters.

The new factors added by the Centre for the purpose of the National Population Register (NPR) would not be included, he said.

Inside the Assembly, the Chief Minister described the CAA as against secular fabric of the country and said events unfolding now were similar to the ones witnessed in Europe when Adolf Hitler was at the

helm in Germany.

Participating in the discussion, Singh hit out at the Centre and said, "You want to change secular fabric of this country. It is very sad what is happening now. We had not even thought of such a thing. We want to break brotherhood merely for politics."

"Clearly, no lessons had been learnt from history, he said.

The resolution also urged the Central government to put on hold the work on the National Population Register (NPR), till forms/docu-

ments associated with it are amended suitably, in order to allay apprehensions that it is a prelude to NRC and designed to deprive a section of persons from citizenship of India and implement CAA.

Terming the "divisive" Act and NRC a tragedy, he said, "Where will the poor go and from where will they procure their birth certificates? This is a great tragedy. And I am very sorry to say, I wish I was not here when this is happening to my country,"

—PTI

## Kerala Gov seeks report from govt

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, JAN. 17

The rift between Kerala Governor Arif Mohammad Khan and the CPM-led LDF government escalated further on Friday, with the former seeking a report on the suit filed by the state in Supreme Court challenging Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA).

Khan told the reporters in the national capital that by not seeking his approval before filing the suit in apex court, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan had violated rule 34 clause 2 of the rules of business of the government.

The following classes of cases shall be submitted by the Chief Minister to the Governor before the issue of order; cases which affect the relations of the state with the Centre, or any other state government, Supreme Court and the High Court.

The Governor said that some might say that this was only for passing the information. "Even if this is accepted, in the present case, I was not

informed that the government is going to Supreme Court to challenge a Central law which is none of state's concern. Citizenship is a Central subject," he said.

"It is the duty of the Chief Minister whether he comes personally, sends his ministers or one of his officials writes to my principal secretary. That is his concern. But he is duty bound to submit this before issuing an order," the Governor said.

"I have to ensure that constitutional machinery in the state does not collapse," he said.

Reacting to the Chief Minister's dig on Thursday that the era of residents of British Raj was over, Khan said, "Yes we are not living in colonial period. Here nobody is supreme. Supreme is the Constitution. But what he is saying should reflect in his action. I am appealing to Chief Minister to realise that we are not living in colonial India anymore. Now it is rule of law. I am not above law. I am constitutional head of the state. I am below the law, and so is everybody else," he said.



Bhim Army Chief Chandrasekhar Azad holds a copy of the Constitution during a protest against Citizenship Amendment Act at Jama Masjid in New Delhi on Friday. Azad, who has been accused of inciting people during an anti-CAA protest at Jama Masjid on December 20, on Friday moved court seeking modification of the conditions imposed on him by a Delhi court while granting him bail in the case. —PTI

## No papers will be required under CAA: Ghosh

**RAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC**  
KOLKATA, JAN. 17

West Bengal BJP president and MP from Midnapore Dilip Ghosh said on Friday that Prime Minister Narendra Modi would give barely four months' time to the people to apply for citizenship under the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA).

He said at a rally in support of the CAA in

Howrah that no documents would be required for applying for citizenship under the CAA. Ghosh, however, made it clear that each person from Bangladesh living in India would be mandated to fill up the CAA form.

Ghosh said, "Modiji will give three-four months' time. You have to fill up the forms according to the CAA. No documents will be required. You will only

state the date you entered India and mention your father's name with the address say Saatkhira (Bangladesh). This is the proof. No other document and attestation will be needed." Aadhaar card or voter card is not the citizenship, he added.

Taking a dig at Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, the BJP MP, who has become the state party chief for the second time,

alleged, "Didi is saying: Do not fill up the forms. Never fall prey to her ploy. Ask those businessmen who did not register themselves in the GST and had to pay fines later. An attempt is being made to fool Bengalis."

"You will become an Indian citizen from the date you would state in the form. Someone might have come in 1975, others in 1980 and 1985. You will

state the date of your arrival correctly. Those who have come here till December 31, 2014 will be awarded citizenship. So your word is the last word."

Lashing out at Trinamul Congress for their anti-CAA protests, he argued, "They are scaring people saying the dates of birth of parents would be asked for. It would not be sought."

## Sonia aide faces ED investigation

**M. K. ASHOKA | DC**  
BENGALURU, JAN. 17

Will Sonia Gandhi confidante, senior Congress leader and former minister, K.J. George meet the same fate as D.K. Shivakumar, who was jailed during the course of investigation by the Enforcement Directorate (ED)?

Sources claim that, George, who is accused of amassing properties worth millions of dollars in the name of his daughter and son-in-law in Manhattan, New York, seems to be in trouble.

Acting on a complaint by political activist Ravikrishna Reddy, the ED began investigating the matter. George, who appeared before the ED seemed to be confident that he would not be prosecuted. ED officers have asked George to furnish details of all bank accounts maintained by him and his family members, both in India and abroad.

They have also sought details of all movable and immovable properties in India and abroad owned by him, along with proof.

The ED also asked the Congress leader to produce "Income Tax returns from the financial year 2005 onwards till date. Copies of Income Tax returns, audited balance sheet and P&L account, along with all

**■ FORMER MINISTER**  
George is accused of amassing properties worth millions of dollars in the name of his daughter and son-in-law in Manhattan, New York

the annexures filed by all your concerns for the financial year 2005-06 onwards and till date."

George, after being grilled for hours, stated that he will produce all documents sought by the officials, but refused to divulge any other details to the media.

Ravikrishna Reddy, the complainant in the case, alleged that George, being "a powerful politician since the 1990s has amassed properties in Manhattan area of New York city, which is regarded as one of the costliest real estate in the world".

The details of three properties on Lafayette Street in Manhattan, and two properties on Mullberry Street in New York has been listed. Most of the properties are in the name of his daughter Renita Abraham and son-in-law Kevin Abraham, Reddy alleged. "All these properties are worth millions of dollars and the daughter and son-in-law's income does not match," he said.

In his submission to Lokayukta, George in 2014 said that "the income of his children is nil."

## No cases of 'love jihad' in Kerala, says DGP Behera

**DC CORRESPONDENT**  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, JAN. 17

Kerala DGP Lokanath Behera on Friday refuted the allegations of 'love jihad' cases in the state.

The state police chief said no 'love jihad' case has been reported in Kerala for the past two years. "During the last two years we have not come across any case in the state," he told reporters in Kozhikode.

The DGP's reaction comes a day after National Commission for

Minorities sent a missive to him, seeking a probe into the allegations of 'love jihad' levelled by the Synod of influential Syro Malabar Church on Wednesday.

Behara said that he had not seen the commission directive, but the department would look into the issues referred in the communication.

The National Commission for Minorities directed the state police chief based on a resolution passed by Syro Malabar Church and asked him to submit a

report within 21 days.

The Synod passed the resolution in Ernakulam on Wednesday, expressing concern over the rising cases of 'love jihad' in Kerala.

The resolution further stated that half of the 21 youth recruited by ISIS from Kerala were converted from Christianity.

Meanwhile, differences have cropped up within the Church over the timing of the resolution.

Some believe that the resolution and the allegations have come up in an inappropriate time.

## IN BAD | TASTE

**Tweet by tourism dept on beef fry on Sankranti draws flak**

## Kerala minister defends 'beef tweets'

**GILVETER ASSARY | DC**  
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, JAN. 17

With the "beef fry" tweet on the official Twitter handle of Kerala Tourism triggering a major controversy, tourism minister Kadakampally Surendran on Friday categorically stated that there was no attempt to hurt anyone's religious sentiments.

The minister said there was a deliberate attempt from certain quarters to add communal colour to the tourism department's

tweet, highlighting Kerala's popular delicacy *beef ularthiyathu*. Kerala government, the tourism department and the Left came in for sharp criticism by a section of Twitterati, who alleged that the tweet on "beef fry" was deliberately posted on MakarSankranti.

Surendran said the people criticising the beef tweet were trying to give a communal colour to the whole issue by posting pictures of pork and daring the tourism department to upload such pictures too.

**Q** Tourists in Kerala enjoy pork, beef and fish. Controversy is created by those who want to communalise issue

— **KADAKAMPALLY SURENDRAN**  
Kerala tourism minister

"There are several pork dishes which are already on the tourism department's website," the minister said and added that in Kerala cuisine is not linked with religion.

The controversial tweet:

"Tender chunks of beef, slow-roasted with aromatic spices, coconut pieces, and curry leaves. A recipe for the most classic dish, *beef ularthiyathu*, the stuff of legends, from the land of spices, Kerala," evoked sharp reactions. Many felt it was needless.

But the minister on Friday stood firmly by the tweet.

"Tourists arriving in Kerala enjoy all dishes, whether it is pork, beef or fish. The whole controversy has been triggered by fanatics who want to com-

munalise everything," he said.

The minister said each recipe including that of pork delicacies have been uploaded on the official website of the department. Kerala tourism has huge following on social media with 35 lakh followers on Facebook, 18 lakh on Twitter and two lakh on Instagram. No other state in India has more followers than Kerala. All items including food are marketed by tourism department on the social media, he added.





## Libya meet

US secretary of state Mike Pompeo to attend Libya Conference in Berlin

## IN BRIEF

### Ghosn: Images show accomplices

**Istanbul:** Turkey's state news agency has published images of two men accused of helping fugitive businessman Carlos Ghosn escape via an Istanbul airport, as he fled a corruption trial in Japan. The security camera images, first made public on Thursday, show Michael Taylor and George Antoine Zayek at passport control at Istanbul Airport, according to state news agency Anadolu. The *Wall Street Journal* described Taylor as a former US special forces operative now working as a private security contractor. Ghosn, the former boss of carmaker Nissan, fled from Japan reportedly by hiding inside an audio equipment box, later giving a news conference in Lebanon. He has refused to comment on the details of his escape. Turkish police say he disembarked on foot at the smaller Ataturk Airport and transferred to another private jet for Lebanon. Anadolu report suggests Taylor and Zayek accompanied Ghosn from Japan to Turkey, but then took a separate flight to Beirut with Middle East Airlines.

### Pension strikes hit France's Louvre

**Paris:** The Louvre museum in Paris shut down Friday after striking workers blocked the entrance, the management said, in the latest protest against plans to overhaul France's pension system. Hundreds of disappointed visitors waited in front of the entrance to the world's most visited museum, some hurling insults at the striking workers, according to a reporter at the scene. The blockade came as union leaders seek to widen opposition to the pension reforms, which have triggered the longest transport strike in France in decades. The unions are looking for a second wind as the movement starts to flag, with the proportion of workers at national railway operator SNCF falling to 4.6 percent on Friday. On Thursday, around 187,000 people took part in a sixth day of nationwide protests against the overhaul.

### Lebanese block roads in protest

**Beirut:** Protesters blocked several main roads across Lebanon on Friday as unprecedented demonstrations against a political elite accused of corruption and incompetence entered their fourth month. The protest movement rocking Lebanon since October 17 has resurged this week, over delays in forming a new cabinet to address the country's growing economic crisis. No progress seemed to have been made on a final lineup, which protesters demand be made up solely of independent experts and empty of traditional political parties. In central Beirut, dozens of protesters Friday stood between parked cars blocking a key thoroughfare linking the city's east and west. "We blocked the road with cars because it's something they can't move," a protester said.

### MISSING INDIAN WOMAN FOUND DEAD IN CAR

**New York:** A 34-year-old Indian-origin woman who was reported missing two weeks ago has been found dead under mysterious circumstances in the trunk of her car in the US state of Illinois, according to media reports. Sureel Dabawala was reportedly missing by her family on January 1 after she failed to return home in Schaumburg, Illinois, on December 30, the Schaumburg Police said in a statement. She had gone to work out at a gym and was last seen driving her car. She never came home after that, her family was quoted as saying by the *Chicago Tribune*. On Monday, the Chicago Police contacted Schaumburg Police to report that a body had been recovered from the inside of the vehicle owned by the missing Dabawala, the statement said. The Chicago Police are handling this as a death investigation, it said. After private investigators hired by Dabawala's family located her white sedan parked in Chicago's West Garfield Park neighbourhood, Chicago police officers were called there. The trunk of the car was opened, after her father arrived with the keys of the car. Dabawala was found wrapped in a blanket and authorities later pronounced her dead, it said. The medical examiner's office released her identification.

# Iran: Strikes on US bases a Day of God

In rare Friday sermon, Ayatollah Khamenei lashes out at West, slams American clowns

**Tehran, Jan. 17:** Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said in a Friday sermon that Iran's missile strikes on US targets in Iraq showed it had divine support in delivering a "slap on the face" to a world power. He lashed out at Western countries as he led Friday prayers in Tehran for the first time in eight years, dismissing "American clowns" who he said pretend to support the Iranian nation but want to stick their "poisoned dagger" into its back. "The day when Sepah's (the Guards' Farsi name) missiles demolished the US military base in Iraq is also one of Allah's days. That a nation has the power to slap a global, harassing, arrogant power in this way shows God's power and is one of Allah's days," he said. Khamenei used his rare appearance at the weekly prayers to deliver a fiery address in which he insisted Iran would not bow to US pressure after months of crushing sanctions and a series of recent crises — from the killing of a top Iranian general to the accidental shooting down of a Ukrainian passenger plane.

Thousands had gathered inside the large prayer hall in central Tehran and packed the area and streets outside the building, chanting "Death to America". He said that demonstrations at home over the accidental downing of a Ukrainian airliner were unrepresentative of the Iranian people and accused the country's enemies of exploiting it for propaganda purposes. Khamenei said the downing was a "bitter" tragedy but should not be allowed to overshadow the "sacrifice" of one of Iran's most storied commanders, assassinated in a US drone strike in Baghdad. "The plane crash was a bitter accident, it burned through our heart," Khamenei said. "But some tried to... portray it in a way to forget the great martyrdom and sacrifice" of General Qasem Soleimani. Khamenei said Iran's enemies had seized on the plane tragedy in a bid to undermine the Islamic republic. "Our enemies were as happy about the plane crash as we were sad," he said. "The spokesmen of the vicious American government keep repeating that



Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei leads Friday prayers in Tehran. The last time Khamenei led Friday prayers at Tehran's Mosalla mosque was in February 2012, on the 33rd anniversary of the Islamic revolution. — AFP

we stand with the people of Iran. You're lying," Khamenei said. "These American clowns that lie in utter viciousness that 'we are with the people of Iran'. See who the people of Iran are."

He also slammed the governments of Britain, France and Germany, which on Tuesday decided to trigger a dispute mechanism in the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran, following US threats to impose tar-

iffs on European cars. "It has been proven now, after about a year, that they are, in the true sense of the word, America's lackeys, and these cowardly governments are waiting for the Iranian nation

to surrender," he said. Meanwhile, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov on Friday urged a "de-escalation" of the tensions and an end to the "constant threats". — AFP

### 11 US TROOPS HURT IN ATTACK ON IRAQ BASE

**Washington, Jan. 17:** Eleven American troops were injured in an Iranian attack on an Iraqi base where American soldiers were deployed, the US Central Command said Thursday, although the US military had previously maintained there were no casualties. "While no US service members were killed in the January 8 Iranian attack on Al-Asad Air Base, several were treated for concussion symptoms from the blast and are still being assessed," US Central Command spokesman Captain Bill Urban said in a statement. At the time of the attack, most of the 1,500 US soldiers at the base had been tucked away in bunkers, after advance warning from superiors. Urban said that "in the days following the attack, out of an abundance of caution, some service members were transported from Al-Asad Air Base — eight to Landstuhl, and three to Camp Arifjan". — AFP

## Trump's impeachment trial begins

**Washington, Jan. 17:** The US Senate opened the impeachment trial of President Donald Trump with quiet ceremony on Thursday — senators standing at their desks to swear an oath of "impartial justice" as jurors, House prosecutors formally reciting the charges and Chief Justice John Roberts presiding. The trial, only the third such undertaking in American history, is unfolding at the start of the election year, a time of deep political division in the nation. Four of the senators sitting in judgment on Trump are running for the Democratic Party's nomination to challenge him in the fall. "Hear ye, hear ye, hear ye!" intoned the Senate's sergeant at arms, calling the proceedings to order just past noon. Senators filled the chamber, an unusual sight in itself, sitting silently under strict rules that prohibit talking or cellphones, for a trial that will test not only Trump's presidency but also the nation's three branches of power and its system of checks and balances. The Constitution man-



US President Donald Trump gestures as he speaks during the Announcement of the Guidance on Constitutional Prayer in Public Schools, at the White House in Washington on Thursday. — AFP

dates the chief justice serve as the presiding officer, and Roberts made the short trip across the street from the Supreme Court to the Capitol. He has long insisted judges are not politicians and is expected to serve as a referee for the proceedings. Senators rose quickly when he appeared in his plain black robe. "Will all senators now stand, and

remain standing, and raise their right hand," Roberts said. "Do you solemnly swear that in all things appertaining to the trial of the impeachment of Donald John Trump, president of the United States, now pending, you will do impartial justice according to the Constitution and laws, so help you God?" The senators responded they

would, and then they lined up to sign an oath book. Trump faces two charges after the House voted to impeach him last month. One, that he abused his power by pressuring Ukraine to investigate Democratic rival Joe Biden, using military aid to the country as leverage. He is also charged with obstructing Congress' ensuing probe. — AP

■ **LEV PARNAS, AN** associate of Rudy Giuliani, told reporters he witnessed President Donald Trump telling a top aide that the US ambassador to Ukraine should be fired. It was one of several instances when Trump attempted to fire then-ambassador Marie Yovanovitch, Parnas said in the latest installment of a wide-ranging interview that aired Thursday night.

■ **FAR FROM FEELING** the heat, Trump will be chilling in Davos, a fancy Swiss ski resort, when the Senate hears opening arguments in his impeachment trial next week. Trump is so confident that his Republican party majority will stay loyal that he sees no risk in jetting to Switzerland for the annual World Economic Forum on Tuesday, right as lawmakers convene for the historic trial.

## Haftar secretly flies to Greece

**Athens, Jan. 17:** Libyan military strongman Khalifa Haftar was holding talks in Athens on Friday two days ahead of a peace conference in Berlin, which he and the head of Tripoli's UN-recognised government Fayez al-Sarraj are expected to attend. Haftar secretly flew to Athens on Thursday for talks as Greece criticised its exclusion from a United Nations-backed peace conference in Berlin this weekend. On Friday, Haftar thanked Vladimir Putin, his "dear friend", for his efforts to bring peace in Libya after Moscow announced that the Russian leader would attend Sunday's conference. However, Russia's acting foreign minister Sergei Lavrov said Haftar and Sarraj could not even bear each other's presence, let alone talk. "So far ties between them are very tense, they don't even want to be in the same room to say nothing of meeting each other," Lavrov said. World powers are trying to mediate a lasting ceasefire nine months after Haftar's forces launched an assault on Tripoli, sparking fighting that has killed more than 280 civilians and 2,000



Khalifa Haftar

■ **RUSSIAN PRESIDENT** Vladimir Putin will take part in a peace conference on Libya in Germany on Sunday, as world powers step up efforts to find a lasting ceasefire.

fighters and displaced tens of thousands. An interim truce that came into force on Sunday has mostly held, despite accusations of violations from Haftar's forces and the rival Tripoli-based Government of National Accord (GNA). Haftar walked away from ceasefire talks in Moscow on Monday, but German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas visited his eastern Libya stronghold of Benghazi on Thursday to persuade him to join the Berlin conference. — AFP

## Pak court sentences 86 Islamists to 55 yrs in jail

**Islamabad, Jan. 17:** A Pakistani court has sentenced brother and nephew of a radical Islamist party chief along with 84 others to 55-year prison terms each for taking part in protests in 2018 over the acquittal of Aasia Bibi, a Christian woman in a controversial blasphemy case, according to a media report. The anti-terrorism court (ATC) in Rawalpindi was hearing a case against the Tehreek-i-Labbaik Pakistan (TLP) workers who held violent protests and clashed with

the police over the arrest of party chief Khadim Hussain Rizvi in 2018, *Dawn* news reported. Those convicted include TLP chief Khadim Hussain Rizvi's brother Ameer Hussain Rizvi and nephew Mohammad Ali, the report said. The court handed 86 workers and supporters of the TLP with a prison sentence of 55 years each in a case pertaining to rioting and resisting against the police, the report said. Additionally, the court on Thursday ordered the convicts to collectively

submit Rs 12,925,000 and directed authorities to seize their moveable and immovable assets. After the verdict was announced late on Thursday night, the convicts were escorted to Attock jail in three vehicles under tight security. In November 2018, over 2,000 people, including the chief of a radical Islamist party, were booked under terrorism and other charges of rioting, attempting murder and hurling threats during the protests following the acquittal of Bibi. — PTI



Chinese President Xi Jinping and Myanmar State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi shake hands during a welcome ceremony at the Presidential Palace in Naypyidaw on Friday. — AFP

## RUFFLING FEATHERS

■ **Facial hair a point of some fascination, says Harris**

## Koreans flip out over a moustache

**Seoul, Jan. 17:** Tensions may be running high on the Korean peninsula, but Harry Harris's facial hair is vying with denuclearisation as the defining theme of his tenure as US ambassador to South Korea, according to newspaper reports. Harris, a former navy admiral who was born in Japan to a Japanese mother and an American navy officer, has been accused of insulting his hosts by growing a moustache that

reminds many South Koreans of the days of Japanese colonial rule from 1910 to 1945. In an interview with a local radio station, a ruling party lawmaker compared Harris with a "governor general" of the Japanese government during the colonial period. Others criticized Harris more directly, with some even commenting on his Japanese-American heritage. On Thursday, Harris also



Harry Harris

mentioned the public comments about his heritage

and the mockery of his moustache — despite the fact that many famous Korean historical figures had similar facial hair. "My moustache, for some reason, has become a point of some fascination here," Harris said at the briefing. In a protest outside the US Embassy in December, activists plucked moustache hairs from posters of Harris. "I understand the historical animosity that exists between both of the

nations," Harris said of the lingering tensions between South Korea and Japan. "But I am not the Japanese-American ambassador to Korea — I am the American ambassador to Korea." He also drew criticism from the highest levels of government in Seoul on Friday for suggesting that Seoul consult with Washington about the possibility of reopening tourism with North Korea. — Agencies



*The writer is a former secretary in the external affairs ministry. He tweets at @ambkcsingh*



## quick BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	41,945.37	0.03
Nifty 50	12,352.40	-0.03
S&P 500*	3,323.51	0.20
Dollar (₹)	71.08	0.2
Pound Sterling (₹)	92.65	0.04
Euro (₹)	78.95	-0.24
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	40,590.32	0.07
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	64.69	0.07
IN 10-Yr bond yield	6.622	0.024
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	1.839	0.030

\* As of 9:30 pm IST

## Jet Airways to sell Netherlands biz to KLM

Bankrupt Jet Airways said it had agreed to sell its assets in the Netherlands to Dutch airline KLM. If the deal is finalised, it will only involve a sale of part of the company's business and not impact the shareholding pattern, Jet said in a statement. It did not detail the assets held in the Netherlands. KLM, a part of Air France KLM, was once a code-share partner with Jet.

## EU to move WTO if distortions seen in US-China deal



The EU will challenge the US-China trade pact at the WTO if it creates "distortions" in the market that harm EU firms, the bloc's envoy to Beijing said. Ambassador Nicolas Chapuis said in Beijing that the EU "will monitor the implementation" of the "phase one" deal. "In our opinion, quantitative targets are not WTO-compatible if they lead to trade distortions," he said.

## JP Morgan takes strategic stake in Arcesium

J.P. Morgan has taken an equity stake in Arcesium, an investment-management technology business that D.E. Shaw & Co. launched as an independent company in 2015. The investment will build on Arcesium's existing client relationship with J.P. Morgan, including its securities services business, which provides fund administration and outsourcing to asset managers and allocators.

## Yes Bank drops over Moody's rating review

Shares of Yes Bank closed 1.75% lower on Friday, after plunging 6.88% intra-day, after Moody's Investors Service placed the bank's long-term foreign currency issuer rating of B2 under review, with the direction uncertain, owing to "slowness in raising new capital." The rater said the move "reflects Moody's expectation that the bank's standalone viability is getting increasingly challenged."

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## ■ Telecom and retail now account for 40% of Ebitda RIL reports record quarterly net profit

**Mumbai/New Delhi, Jan. 17:** Reliance Industries Ltd's December-quarter profit jumped 13.5 per cent to another record, as the conglomerate benefitted from steady double-digit growth at its consumer-facing units. Consolidated net profit climbed to a record Rs 11,640 crore in the December quarter, RIL said on Friday. Consolidated revenue fell 1.4 per cent to Rs 168,858 crore.

The quarterly profit, which trumped the record Rs 11,262 crore in the prior quarter, was also higher than analysts' average expectation of Rs 11,432 crore, according to Refinitiv data.

Reliance has been investing heavily in its retail and telecoms arms to bring them on par with its refining and petrochemicals units. The two segments now account for nearly 40 per cent of its Ebitda now, up from close to 25 per cent



last financial year. Reliance Jio posted a 62.5 per cent jump in its stand-alone net profit at Rs 1,350 crore versus Rs 831 crore in the year-ago quarter. Operating revenue jumped 28 per cent at Rs 13,968 crore from Rs 10,884 crore. "Jio has continued on its unprecedented growth journey.. Jio is also determined to redefine the wireline infrastructure, home entertainment and enterprise market in India with its FTTx services, which

bundle best-in-class connectivity with bouquet of digital content and services," RIL chairman and managing director Mukesh Ambani said in a statement.

Reliance Retail's pre-tax profit jumped 62.32 per cent at Rs 2,727 crore. Revenue was up 27.40 per cent at Rs 45,327 crore as against Rs 35,577 crore in the same period last fiscal. "Revenue growth was led by robust 35.7 per cent growth in Consumer

Electronics, Fashion & Lifestyle and Grocery segments," said RIL.

During the December quarter, Reliance Retail added 456 stores, taking the total store count to 11,316 stores with an area of 26.3 million square feet in nearly 7,000 towns.

Reliance Industries' oil refining margins rose after six straight quarters of decline, though the weakness in the petrochemical businesses continued.

The operator of the world's largest oil refining complex saw pre-tax earnings from the business rise 12 per cent to Rs 5,657 crore in the third quarter of the current fiscal year.

It earned \$9.2 on turning every barrel of crude oil into fuel as compared to a gross refining margin of \$8.8 per barrel in October-December 2018. The GRM was, however, lower than \$9.4 per barrel earned in July-September 2019.

—Agencies

## Adani set to buy 49% in Kakinada SEZ port

**N. VAMSI SRINIVAS | DC VIJAYAWADA, JAN. 17**

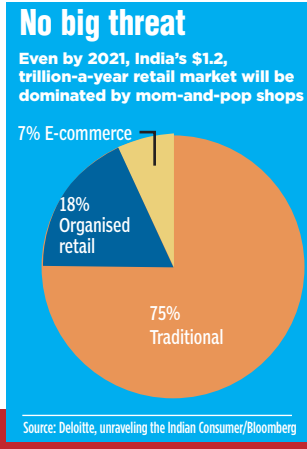
The Adani group is set to annex yet another port in its conquest of Indian coast. The group has in principle decided to acquire considerable stake in the proposed Kakinada SEZ port in Andhra Pradesh, being developed by the GMR group, it is learnt.

The state government had already signed a concession agreement with the GMR group for developing the port along with a Special Economic Zone in about 8,000 acres near Kakinada.

Though the companies are tight-lipped, sources involved in the acquisition process told this newspaper that GMR would offload 49 per cent stake to Adani in the port project. The deal, however, does not include the SEZ project, sources added.

## China's economy slumps to 29-year-low of 6.1%

China's GDP grew by 6.1% last year, the lowest in 29 years, as sluggish domestic demand and the bruising 18-month trade war with the US seriously impacted the world's second-largest economy. The new GDP data released by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) comes a day after China and the US signed a long-awaited phase one deal. China's economic growth of 6.1% is the worst since 1990. However, significant from the Chinese government's perspective, the GDP expanded to \$14.38 trillion from last year's \$13.1 trillion. In 2018, the economy sank to a 28-year low to 6.6%.



Recently, the Adani group bought a 75 per cent stake in the Krishnapatnam port. At one stage, it was in talks with the Gagavaram port management for acquisition of the port but the deal never got through. The group owns Dhamra, Katupalli and Krishnapatnam, besides owning terminals in Visakhapatnam and Ennore ports on the East Coast.

The Kakinada SEZ remained a non-starter for more than a decade-and-a-half since its inception by Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC) and Kakinada Sea Ports Limited—the private operator of existing deep-water port in Kakinada. The GMR group entered into the project following the exit of ONGC and acquired land for the SEZ running into 8,000 acres. GMR later approached the government to change the captive port to commercial port as the former was unviable. The state government opted for Swiss Challenge method and awarded the commercial port to GMR, which quoted the highest revenue share.

## China's Great Wall Motors to buy GM's Talegaon plant

**Mumbai, Jan. 17:** Chinese auto-maker Great Wall Motors on Friday said it has inked a pact with General Motors (GM) to acquire the latter's manufacturing facility in Talegaon, near Pune.

The transaction, which is subject to regulatory approval, is expected to close in the second half of 2020, Great Wall Motors (GWM) said in a release.

The auto-maker is set to debut its Haval brand and electric vehicle at the Auto Expo-Motor Show 2020, slated to be held in Greater Noida early next month.

"Under a binding term sheet signed on Thursday, the GM India legal entity, which includes the Talegaon facility, will transfer to GWM," the release said.

After more than two decades of operations in India, General Motors stopped selling cars in the country from 2017 end.

GWM Global Strategy



vice president Liu Xiangshang said the transaction would underpin the company's plan to enter and invest in India. GWM will officially debut its Haval brand and GWM EV at the Delhi International Auto Show, and launch its Indian market plan, he said.

GM will provide a separation package and transition support for employees impacted due to the deal, as well as an orderly transition for partners, the release said.

Chevrolet will continue to honour all warranties and provide after-sales support, including ongoing service and parts requirements for existing customers in India, the release said.

—PTI

## Piramal sells DRG biz for \$950 million

**New Delhi, Jan. 17:** Ajay Piramal-led Piramal Enterprises has signed an agreement for sale of its Decision Resources Group (DRG) business to US-headquartered Clarivate Analytics for \$950 million (over Rs 6,745 crore), and will use the money to reduce debt and to explore organic and inorganic growth opportunities.

The transaction is expected to be completed by the end of February 2020, Piramal Enterprises Limited (PEL) said in a statement.

PEL DRG Dutch HoldCo BV, a 100 per cent subsidiary of PEL and the holding company for DRG, has signed a definitive agreement for sale of DRG to Clarivate Analytics, it said.

Piramal group chairman Ajay Piramal said it would be used to reduce debt and to explore organic and inorganic growth opportunities. PEL had initially invested \$650 million in 2012 to acquire DRG, out of which \$260 million was infused as equity. It has realised 2.3 times its initial equity investment in rupee terms, the statement added. "We are pleased to have grown DRG's market leadership over the last few years...This transaction demonstrates our continued commitment to create sustained long-term value for all stakeholders," Piramal said.—PTI

## Goyal tries to contain damage

**Ahmedabad / New Delhi, Jan. 17:** A day after he scoffed at Amazon.com founder Jeff Bezos' offer to invest \$1 billion in India, commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal on Friday tried to do damage control, saying the country welcomes investments that follow the "letter and spirit" of the law.

Goyal clarified his remarks on Twitter as well as to reporters, saying some people have misconstrued his remarks by suggesting that he had said something negative against Amazon. "Our country has some rules for e-commerce industry. We welcome all those investments which come as per these rules. However, it should not create unfair competition for the small traders of India. They do not get zero per cent loans. They do not have lakhs and crores of rupees. They do business with small capital," Goyal said in Ahmedabad.

"Our laws say that the interests of such small traders should not get hurt. Investment should be in the purview of set parameters. That is the view of me and the government," he added.

Goyal's remarks notwithstanding, Amazon chief Jeff Bezos on Friday announced plans to create one million new jobs — excluding the seven lakh it enabled so far — in India over the next five years.

## HCL Tech net rises 13%

**New Delhi, Jan 17:** HCL Technologies posted a 13 per cent rise in its consolidated net profit at Rs 2,944 crore for the December 2019 quarter against Rs 2,605 crore reported for the year-ago quarter, as per Indian Accounting Standards, the company said in a statement on Friday.

The tech major's revenue from operations grew 15.5 per cent to Rs 18,135 crore from Rs 15,699 crore in the year-ago quarter. The company has revised its constant currency revenue growth outlook to 16.5-17

per cent for 2019-20 from its previous forecast of 15-17 per cent.

"We continue our stellar performance over the years and have now crossed a revenue run rate of \$10 billion this quarter. Our revenues have grown 16.4 per cent year-on-year in constant currency and we have delivered a strong 20.2 per cent earnings before interest and taxes (Ebit)," HCL Technologies president & CEO C Vijayakumar said.

The company has declared a dividend of Rs 2 per share. —FC Bureau

## TCS turns in flat profit in Q3

**Mumbai, Jan. 17:** India's largest software exporter Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) said Friday that its quarterly net profits rose just 0.2 per cent, missing estimates despite robust demand from European clients.

The firm said its consolidated net profit rose to Rs 8,118 crore (\$1.14 billion) for the quarter ending December 31, marginally higher than the Rs 8,105 crore reported a year earlier. A Bloomberg survey of analysts had projected the net profits to come in at Rs 8,189 crore.

"In a seasonally weak quarter characterised by furloughs across multiple industry verticals, we focused on execution, while continuing to invest for future growth," COO N. Ganapathy Subramaniam said, pointing to the hiring of 30,000 trainees from April to September last year.

Revenues increased by 6 per cent, while demand from European clients grew 15.9 per cent year-on-year, he added. Analysts said the firm's profit margins, although weak, had enjoyed a boost due to the rupee's falling value. —

## Gold demand to remain positive in 2020: WGC

**SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, JAN. 17**

Financial uncertainty and lower interest rates coupled with weakening in global economic growth will drive gold demand in 2020, finds WGC. The macro economic factors will also see gold performing positively this year.

"We expect that many of the global dynamics seeded over the past few years will remain generally support-

ive for gold in 2020. In particular, we believe that financial and geopolitical uncertainty combined with low interest rates will likely bolster gold investment demand," said World Gold Council in its outlook for 2020.

Net gold purchases by central banks will likely remain robust even if they are lower than the record highs seen in recent quarters. Looking ahead, WGC believes investors, includ-

ing central banks, will face an increasing set of geopolitical concerns, while many pre-existing ones will likely be pushed back rather than being resolved.

Historically, when real interest rates have been negative, gold's average monthly returns have been twice as high as the long-term average. Even slightly positive real interest rates may not push gold prices down. In an environment where a quarter of devel-

oped market sovereign debt is trading with negative nominal rates and a whopping 90 per cent is trading with negative real rates, WGC believes the opportunity cost of gold almost goes away, even providing what can be seen as a positive "cost of carry" compared to bonds.

Further, market surveys indicate that majority of economists expect positive growth in 2020 for most countries.

## Sectoral focus could lift exports by \$100 bn-\$150 bn in 10 years

**SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, JAN. 17**

India can achieve an incremental gain of around \$100-150 billion over the next decade if the government focuses on accelerated export growth in sectors such as chemicals, footwear, furniture, and textiles, finds a study.

India would do well if it improves on the issues related to sector-specific tax issues, infrastructure and trade relationships to gain dominance on these sectors for the long term.

"We estimate India's exports in chemicals, footwear, furniture and textiles to increase to \$200-300 billion over the next 10 years. India could potentially gain around \$100-150 billion over the next decade through these sectors if the focus is shifted towards accelerated exports growth," said a study by Kotak Economic Research.

In the global chemical trade of \$2.3 trillion, India has a share of \$50 billion. According to Kotak, India's export opportunities in chemicals can be around \$110 billion if market share increases by 1.5 times and market grows at 4 per cent CAGR over the next 10 years and \$180 billion if market share increases by 2.5 times. The growth of the Indian chemical industry will be driven by private capital and entrepreneurship. The chemical industry derives its advantage from use of technology, IP and a skilled workforce. India has significantly lower wages.

India's market share in global footwear exports of \$149 billion has been stagnant over the past 10 years. Despite being the second biggest producer of footwear globally, 90 per cent of production is utilised domestically. India has the second lowest average wages among major

footwear exporters. There is an opportunity to reach \$8 billion exports over the next 10 years if market share grows to 3 per cent from 1.9 per cent.

Furniture contributes 0.5 per cent of Indian exports, despite growing at 11 per cent CAGR over FY2010-19. Kotak envisages that the opening of Ikea in India will help further growth competency in furniture manufacturing. Furniture exports can reach \$4 billion if market share grows to 1.2 per cent from 0.8 per cent and \$8 billion if the share touches 2.4 per cent.

The textile sector accounts for 12 per cent of exports. While exports have grown steadily over the past ten years, Asian countries like Bangladesh, China and Vietnam saw sharp growth. India has to correct the inverted duty structure in import of synthetic goods, make products competitive and sign FTAs with key buyers.

**RAVI RANJAN PRASAD MUMBAI, JAN. 17**

Despite trouble brewing in the domestic economy country's top office markets, including Mumbai, NCR, Hyderabad, Bangalore, Chennai and Pune grew at 22 per cent in 2019 over 2018, amounting to a gross absorption of 57.72 million square feet.

At 46 per cent, IT & ITes sector created the highest demand for Grade A office spaces pan-India, followed by 14 per cent from co-working and 10.6 per cent from banking and financial services, said the year-end 2019 report by Savills India, a UK-based international property consultant. Three top office markets of India touched, or were very close to, 10 mn sq. feet mark: Bangalore, NCR & Hyderabad.

There was no effect of India slowdown on office market as global companies preferred India for set-

ting up their development centres as their margins are under pressure while India is able to provide resources, talent pool and scalable office space at reasonable cost.

"The high growth in India's office market was largely due to India's increasing capabilities in the technology sector, rise in flexible spaces, formalisation of the Indian economy and the growing offshoring by Western corporations. Despite headwinds in the domestic economy, we expect this growth to trend in 2020 as well," said Anurag Mathur, CEO, Savills India.

Hyderabad recorded the highest year-on-year increase in terms of absorption at 9.5 million square feet in 2019 with 53.2 per cent growth from the 6.2 million square feet.

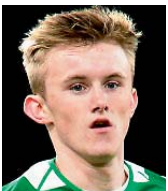
Hyderabad was also the city which added maximum stock at 9.9 million square feet.

Hyderabad's unprecedented rise to the second largest market, after Bangalore, is indicative of two features, which bode well for its future. The quantum leap in absorption in 2018 and 2019 indicates its strong inherent potential.

Bangalore remains the biggest market with 15.6 mn sq. feet absorption in 2019, a year-on-year growth of 15.4 per cent over a large base of 13.5 mn square feet. Chennai also registered good growth in fresh leasing with 8 mn sq. feet absorption, a YoY growth of nearly 60 per cent while Delhi NCR grew at 13.7 per cent at 10.89 mn sq. feet and Pune's growth was flat at 6.8 mn sq. feet.

The combined absorption of the top 3 southern cities —Bangalore, Hyderabad and Chennai—constituted over 57 per cent of total office space absorption in 2019 compared to 52 per cent in 2018.





Welcome

Serie ‘A’ side Hellas Verona have loaned Scottish midfielder Liam Henderson to second-division Empoli, the club announced

SHORT TAKES

Bouchard fails to qualify for Oz

**Melbourne:** It was in the shadows of the main show courts at Melbourne Park, days before the first Grand Slam tournament of the season is set to begin in earnest, and Eugenie Bouchard's stay at the Australian Open was over in the last round of qualifying. The 2014 Wimbledon runner-up, once as high as No. 5 in the rankings, has had a long slide down to No. 211. She's had to get used to playing away from packed stadium courts. But a constant echo around the arena on Friday presented something new. Bouchard survived nearly three hours against You Xiaodi in heavy smoke and haze in the first round of qualifying and advanced through a second-rounder against Maddison Inglis in 65 minutes. With a spot in the main draw on the line, though, Bouchard lost 6-4, 6-3 to Martina Trevisan. — AP

Prajnesh out of Oz Open qualies

**Melbourne:** India's top-ranked player Prajnesh Gunneswaran failed to make the main draw of the Australian Open men's singles event after going down in straight sets to Ernests Gulbis of Latvia in the final round of the qualifiers here on Friday. Prajnesh, ranked 122nd in the world and seeded 17th in the qualifiers, lost 6-7 (2) 2-6 to Gulbis in his final round qualifying match. Prajnesh had earlier defeated local wildcard Harry Bourchier and Germany's Yannick Hanfmann. It was a close first set which went into tie-break, where Prajnesh faltered to hand early advantage to his opponent. In the second set, Gulbis broke Prajnesh in the first and third games to race to a 3-0 lead. From there on, the Indian found it tough as Gulbis held his serve to close out the contest that lasted for one hour and 20 minutes. With Prajnesh's ouster, India's campaign in the singles ended in the qualifiers. — PTI

Injured Murray delays comeback

**London:** Andy Murray on Thursday said he would have to further delay his comeback after failing to shake off a pelvic injury. The 32-year-old former World No.1, who hasn't played since the Davis Cup Finals in Spain in November, had pencilled in a return at either Montpellier in France or the Dutch city of Rotterdam next month. "I don't want to rush anything or put a timeline on my recovery," three-time major winner Murray was quoted as saying by British media. "I'm going to listen to my body and step back on the court to compete when the time is right. The bone bruising is taking longer to heal that first thought, so I won't be playing in Montpellier or Rotterdam in February," he added. The injury picked up at the Davis Cup had already forced him to miss the Australian Open which starts on Monday. — AFP

CONOR ALL SET FOR BIG UFC NIGHT

**Las Vegas:** Conor "Notorious" McGregor is all set to end his 15-month hiatus for his win in this one since his last fight with Khabib. McGregor who appears to be taking this fight very seriously has been working rigorously on his transformation after his break and has now successfully moved to 170lbs. Donald Cerrone, on the other hand, definitely has made more trips to the octagon with a better experience at the Welterweight Bout but also has some big weaknesses which lines up too well in McGregor's favor. Conor's height at 5'9" with a reach of 74" has always left his opponents against the fence, mostly leaving them unconscious. Talking to the media about his comeback and his excitement for UFC 246, McGregor says, "Patience is one of the most valuable skills a human being must master and I am working hard to master it and I feel I'm getting there. UFC 246 is a fight that excites me." — Agencies  
**Live on TV: Conor McGregor vs Donald Cerrone** from 8:30am on Sony TEN 2 & Sony TEN2 HD (English), Sony TEN 3 & Sony TEN 3 HD (Hindi).

Barty clips Collins  
Ash to lock horns with Yastremska in final

**Adelaide, Jan. 17:** World No. 1 Ash Barty came from a set down to beat American Danielle Collins 3-6, 6-1, 7-6 (5) in the Adelaide International semifinals on Friday. Barty will meet World No. 24 Dayana Yastremska in Saturday's final after the 19-year-old Ukrainian beat Aryna Sabalenka 6-4 7-6 (4). Collins was bothered by a back injury in the final set. She received treatment and was able to continue. "It was probably my first real taste (this year) of some adrenaline late in matches. And that is what we're after, to try and practice those things as best we can. I felt like I did what I wanted to do well tonight and got over the line," Barty said. Barty beat Yastremska in their only previous meeting last year in Miami. In the men's draw at Memorial Drive, South African Lloyd Harris reached his first ATP final by defeating fellow qualifier Tommy Paul 6-4, 6-7 (3), 6-3. The 19-year-old Yastremska blitzed World No.20 Donna Vekic in the quarterfinals of the Memorial Drive tournament a day after 18th-ranked Angelique Kerber retired from their match with back pain from a set down.

"I'm pretty happy, this new season is off to a good start. I'm just doing my job on court, playing my game," Yastremska said after defeating Sabalenka of Belarus for their third match in as many meetings. — AP, AFP



Ashleigh Barty of Australia serves against Danielle Collins of the United States during their Adelaide International semifinal on Friday. Barty won the match 3-6, 6-1, 7-6 (5). — AP

Sania-Nadiia are in finals

**Hobart, Jan. 17:** Indian tennis ace Sania Mirza cruised into the women's doubles final of the Hobart International with her Ukrainian partner Nadiia Kichenok here on Friday. Sania and Kichenok sailed past the Slovenian-Czech pair of Tamara Zidansek and Marie Bouzkova 7-6 (3) 6-2 in the semifinal contest that

lasted one hour and 24 minutes. The fifth-seeded Indo-Ukrainian combination will lock horns with second seeds Shuai Peng and Shuai Zhang of China. The Chinese pair got a walkover after Belgium's Kirsten Flipkens and Alison Van Uytvanck conceded the other semifinal match because of an injury.

While Sania and Kichenok had to fight hard in the opening set, the second set was a cakewalk for the new combination. The first set was a tough contest between the two pairs, bringing the tie-breaker into the equation after it was level at 6-6. In the tie-breaker, Sania and Kichenok upped their game by a few notches to

outsmart their opponents and take the lead. The second set was a no contest as Saina and Kichenok broke their opponents thrice — in the second, sixth and eighth game — to easily pocket the set and a place in the summit clash. Before the ongoing event, Sania last played at China Open in October 2017. — PTI

Vishnu-Ravi win; Srivedya 2nd

Telangana shuttlers do well at All India Junior Ranking tourney

DC CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD, JAN. 17

Sai Vishnu Pullela and Srivedya Gurazada did Telangana proud with impressive shows at the Yonex-Sunrise All India Junior Ranking Tournament held in Chandigarh. Vishnu, son of national badminton chief coach Pullela Gopichand, won the boys Under 19 doubles title alongside P. S. Ravikrishna of Kerala while Srivedya combined with Kerala's Aravind V. Suresh to finish runner-up in the U-19 mixed doubles. Seeded sixth, Vishnu and Ravikrishna caused a mini upset by beating fourth seeds B. Gireesh Nayudu (Air India) and Sankarprasad Udayakumar (Kerala) 18-21, 21-18, 21-16 in 44 minutes. Both shuttlers are from the Pullela Gopichand Academy. In the mixed doubles final, Srivedya and Suresh went 18-21, 14-21 down to top seeds Shruti Mishra and Edwin Joy.



Sai Vishnu Pullela (left) and P. S. Ravikrishna pose with their men's doubles trophies. Srivedya Gurazada (right) with the mixed doubles runner-up trophy at the All India Junior Ranking Tournament held in Chandigarh.

It was Srivedya's first final at the national level. Earlier, she had got a bronze in women's doubles at the U-19 Nationals last month to add to her girls doubles bronze in the

U-17 from the 2018 Nationals. In other matches, second seed Ravi and third seed Mansi Singh put up brilliant performances to stun the top seeds and



claim the boys and girls titles respectively. In a blockbuster boys' singles final between the top two seeds, Haryana boy Ravi dropped the middle game but managed to

rebound for a 21-17, 19-21, 21-8 win over top seed Rohan Gurbani in 1 hour 5 minutes. In girls' singles, Uttar Pradesh shuttler Mansi Singh showed a lot of determination and steely resolve to stave off a stiff challenge from the title favourite Tasnim Mir of Gujarat. After losing the first game, the top seed made the second game highly competitive only to see Mansi edge her with a 21-17, 21-19 win. Mansi finished the tournament without dropping a game in six matches. Second seeds Aditi Bhatt and Tanya Hemanth reversed the upset trend with a strong display in girls' doubles. The Uttarakhnad-Karnataka combine soared to a commanding 21-11, 21-9 win against Shruti Mishra and Shailja Shukla. This event was the first of the selection tournaments for the upcoming Dutch and German Junior Open with the next one scheduled to be held in Bangalore from January 21 to 26.

CITY CLIPS

Innings win for Hyderabad Under 14

Hyderabad defeated Goa by an innings & 10 runs to get off to a solid start in the South Zone Under 14 cricket tournament being played in Bangalore. D. Manish (4 for 14) and K. Sriniketh (3 for 23) were too hot to handle as Goa folded for 106 in their second innings after Hyderabad had replied to their first innings total of 76 with 192. **Brief scores:** Goa 76 in 39.2 overs & 106 in 57.1 overs (S. Venkatesh 32, Imran Ghouri 2 for 30, K. Sriniketh 3 for 23, D. Manish 4 for 14) lost to Hyderabad 192 in 78 overs (P. Raghava 27, Aawez Ahmed 48, Varun Tej 50, P. Naik 3 for 40, S. Venkatesh 3 for 24)

Hyderabad sides for various events

Following players have been selected to represent Hyderabad in various tournaments, according to a press release by the Hyderabad Cricket Association. **Ranji Trophy match against Bengal in Kalyani (West Bengal) from January 19 to 23:** Tanmay Agarwal (captain), P Akshath Reddy, B Sandeep, Himalay Agarwal, Kolla Sumanth (Wk), Mehdi Hasan, Tanay Tyagarajan, C. V. Milind, Rahul Buddi, M. Ravi Kiran, Yudhveer Singh, Saaketh Sai Ram, J. Mallikarjun (Wk), T. Ravi Teja, Mir Jaweed Ali, Y. Shraavan Kumar **U-19 for Cooch Behar Trophy match against Gujarat in Hyderabad from January 18 to 21:** 1. G Aniketh Reddy (captain), Vaishnav Reddy (vice-captain), M. Pratyush, Hema Teja, Mirza Houzef Baig, B. Punnaiah, Abhishek Murugan, Mayank Gupta, Pratek Reddy, Venkat Chaitanya, B. Rishkesh Reddy, Sai Purnanand Rao, Abhinav Tej, Shaziab Khan, Divyananda Raju, Raghvendar Satwick. **Women's U-23 team for One-Day Trophy in Mulapadu (Andhra Pradesh) from January 25 to February 12:** D. Ramya (captain), Anitha K (vice-captain), Sneha Morey, G. Trisha, Anuradha Nayak, Shravya, Varsha Rajak, B. Shrivani, Lakshmi Prasanna, Keerthi Reddy, Bavishya, Pranavi Chandra, T. Chandana, P. Survartha, Yashasri. **Girls U-16 for One-Day Trophy at Pondicherry from January 22 to 31:** Chandra Smitha (captain), Kranthi Reddy, Allivellu, Hasini, Poojashri Jadala, Ishitha Koduri, Siri Chandana, Shivani Goud, Sandya Gora, Vrishti, Parvathi, Kavya Shree, K. Anika, Sheema, Manjula.

All India U-19 cricket from Tuesday

The seventh edition of the Rajiv Gandhi All India Under 19 Twenty20 Cricket Championship will be played in Hyderabad from January 21 to 24. Twelve teams from India and abroad have been divided into two pools and will play day/ night matches on a league-cum-knockout basis at three different venues — Lal Bahadur Stadium, Vijayanand Grounds (Attapur) and Amberpet Water Works Grounds, former MP and AICC secretary V. Hanumantha Rao, chairman of the Cricket Federation of India that organises the tournament, said. Nepal, Hyderabad, CFI, Bihar, Vdarbha and Chennai are in Pool 'A' while Malaysia, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Bangalore, Karnataka and Telangana have been grouped in Pool 'B'.



G. Sai Karteek Reddy (left) and Theertha Shashank pose with the scoreboard after winning their doubles quarterfinals at the Khelo India Games on Friday.

Karteek-Shashank in doubles semis

Telangana's G. Sai Karteek Reddy and Theertha Shashank reached the boys U-21 doubles semifinals in tennis at the Khelo India Youth Games being held at Guwahati in Assam. In the quarterfinals played on Friday, the Telangana team prevailed over Divesh Gahlot and Nitin Singh of Haryana with a 6-1, 6-7, 10-5 scoreline.

HFC pledges promotion at grassroot

School Football League (SFL) that has been working on promoting football at the grassroot level in Hyderabad has joined hands with the Hyderabad Football Club. The two organisations pledged to promote the game, nurture talent, provide exposure and groom youngsters. Hyderabad produced some of the finest and best Olympic players in 1950s and 60s. But, that is the history. How do we revive that past glory? We must build the fan base. Regular sporting events and establishing conducive ecosystem will help achieve the past glory, the panelists pointed during a discussion held on Friday on promoting football at the grassroot level in Hyderabad.

MALIK THE BOSS AS NUGGETS NAIL WARRIORS

**San Francisco, Jan. 17:** Playing the second half of a back-to-back and without three injured starters, the Denver Nuggets needed a boost from their bench and pair of late free throws from Malik Beasley to extend Golden State's longest losing streak in nearly 18 years. Beasley made two free throws with 8.9 seconds left in overtime, and the short-handed Nuggets handed the Warriors their 10th consecutive loss with a 134-131 victory Thursday night. Beasley scored 27 points with five 3-pointers, one night after he played only seven minutes. Will Barton had a season-high 31 points. Nikola Jokic added 23 points, 12 rebounds and eight assists. — AP

Royal flush at 10th Poker championship

GANDHARV KAMALA | DC  
PANJIM (GOA), JAN. 17

The 10th edition of the India Poker Championship, organised by Spartan Poker, got underway in a scintillating fashion at the Big Daddy Casino here. The prize pool for the 2020 edition of the IPC, a week-long tournament, has been increased from ₹11 crore to ₹15 crore with the winner taking home a minimum of ₹5 crore, without deductions, as their prize money. "The IPC has helped me realise a lot of my dreams. I was introduced to poker by a common friend and there has been no looking back since. While I competed last year without any expectations this time around, I am here to defend my title," the 2019

IPC winner Raj Talwar said. "Poker has grown considerably in India. It's about time we started looking at it as more of a sport and less of just gamble. We need to get rid of the negative mindset towards poker. It actually assists you in a lot of ways in real life. It helps you to train your mind and remain calm in both good and bad situations. You play with the cards that are dealt to you, that requires a lot of mind training. A lot of people are embracing the sport and that's heartening to see," Raj added. For Amin Rozani, Co-founder and Managing Director of the Spartan Poker, the IPC is close to heart. "We started the IPC as an event to give Indians an opportunity to come



Amin Rozani in action.

out and express themselves. I am happy that IPC is doing just that. Over the years the property has seen a growth of over 300 per cent and the prize money has increased significantly over the years.

Last season we had a total participation of 1,769 players. In 2020, at the end of the day two, we have already seen close to 500 participants. Please keep in mind these two days were weekdays. So by the

end of the tournament, we are looking to go past the 2,000 mark," Amin said. "Like Raj mentioned, poker should be seen as a sport now. We are organising tournaments, paying our taxes, our papers are in order and more and more people are willing to compete. It is not necessary for someone to come out and spend all their money. There are many tournaments where one does not have to pay anything upfront. They can play for free and win money. A lot of state governments are finally coming out to support poker. But there is a lot more that can be done," Amin explained. While encouraging people to come out and compete, Amin had a word of caution. "For beginners, I would suggest to start

with the free tournaments. Once they gain confidence, they can compete at the adults table. But ensure you don't go all out once you start winning big. Only bet the money you have on bankroll (the amount of money that a person has allocated to play poker with). Remember once you put all the money on the table and you lose, there is no looking back. So remember the term bankroll and compete in the tournaments," Amin advised. Unless you are a James Bond (Daniel Craig) from Casino Royale and you have your own Vesper Lynd (Eva Green), who would save your life while betting big. Not everyone gets to say: "I'm sorry. That last hand... nearly killed me," and win at the table.





## Set to quit

Recalled Pakistan allrounder Mohammad Hafeez on Friday said he will retire from international cricket after the Twenty20 World Cup later this year, vowing to end his career on a positive note

DECCAN CHRONICLE

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# Cricket

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## SHORT TAKES



Ruturaj Gaikwad

## Top-order shines in India A's win

**Lincoln (New Zealand):** India A top-order warmed-up nicely for their upcoming one-day series with a 92-run win against New Zealand XI in the first of the two practise games here on Friday. Batting first, India A scored 279 for 8 in 50 overs and then dismissed New Zealand XI for 187 in 41.1 overs with let-arm pacer Khaleel Ahmed getting four wickets. Batting first, skipper Gill hit a half-century adding 89 runs for the second wicket with another specialist opener Ruturaj Gaikwad, who came in at one drop to accommodate senior team player Mayank Agarwal. Once Gill was out hitting seven fours, Gaikwad was joined by Suryakumar Yadav, who hit a 48-ball-50 with four fours and two sixes as the duo added 89 runs. As Surya attacked, Gaikwad held anchor at one end. During the back-end, Krunal Pandya scored a 31-ball 41 while Sanju Samson and Vijay Shankar failed to make an impact. — PTI

**Brief scores:** India A 279/8 in 50 overs (Ruturaj Gaikwad 93, Suryakumar Yadav 50, Shubman Gill 50) bt New Zealand XI 187 in 41.1 overs (Jakob Bhula 50, Khaleel Ahmed 4/43).

## VVS admires Rahul's versatility

**Rajkot:** Former India cricketer VVS Laxman on Friday lauded the versatility of batsman K. L. Rahul, saying that "what an important knock he played for his team." Rahul, who batted at number five in the second ODI, guided the side to 340. He smashed 80 runs off 52 balls, studded with six fours and three sixes. "Have to admire the versatility of Rahul. Never easy to play as an opener one day, No.4 the other and only the 2nd time batting at 5 in ODIs and what an important knock he is playing for his team," Laxman tweeted. Rahul originally bats as an opener but due to inform opening batsmen Rohit Sharma and Shikhar Dhawan he has to shift down in the batting order. Sharma and Dhawan provided the solid start as they stitched an 81-run opening stand. Sharma departed after scoring 42 runs. He was plumed in front of the wickets by Zampa. — Agencies



India's KL Rahul celebrates his half-century during the second ODI against Australia in Rajkot on Friday. — AP

## Rahul's late blitz, Kuldeep's spell help India level the series with Australia

**Rajkot, Jan. 17:** Kuldeep Yadav bowled a game-changing 38th over to complement a KL Rahul blinder as India levelled the series with a comfortable 36-run victory over Australia in second ODI here on Friday.

Put into bat, India put up a much-improved batting performance with Rahul's blistering 52-ball-80 taking India to 340 for six after Shikhar Dhawan (96 off 90 balls) and skipper Virat Kohli (78 off 76 balls) laid the foundation.

Australia were in the game till Steven Smith (98) carried the battle back to the enemy camp but Kuldeep's ninth over turned out to be a game-changer as he first dismissed wicketkeeper Alex Carey and then had a delivery that bounced extra to have Smith played on.

The visitors were all-out for 304 in 49.1 overs. Kuldeep's final figures of 2 for 65 may not be mind-blowing but did just enough damage to see that the third ODI in Bengaluru doesn't lose con-

## SCORECARD

**India:** Rohit Sharma lbw b Zampa 42, Shikhar Dhawan c Starc b Richardson 96, Virat Kohli c Starc b Zampa 78, Shreyas Iyer b Zampa 7, Lokesh Rahul run out 80, Manish Pandey c Agar b Richardson 2, Ravindra Jadeja (not out) 20, Mohammad Shami (not out) 1. Extras (B-5 LB-4 W-5) 14. Total (for six wickets in 50 overs) 340. FoW: 1-81, 2-184, 3-198, 4-276, 5-280, 6-338.

**Bowling:** Cummins 10-1-53-0, Starc 10-0-78-0, Richardson 10-0-73-2, Zampa 10-0-50-3, Agar 8-0-63-0, Labuschagne 2-0-14-0.

**Australia:** David Warner c Pandey b Shami 15, Aaron Finch st Rahul b Jadeja 33, Steven Smith b Kuldeep 98, Marnus Labuschagne c Shami b Jadeja 46, Alex Carey c Kohli b Kuldeep 18, Ashton Turner b Shami 13, Ashton Agar lbw b Saini 25, Pat Cummins b Shami 0, Mitchell Starc c Rahul b Saini 6, Kane Richardson (not out) 24, Adam Zampa c Rahul b Bumrah 6. Extras: (LB-10 W-10) 20. Total (in 49.1 overs) 304. FoW: 1-20, 2-82, 3-178, 4-220, 5-221, 6-259, 7-259, 8-274, 9-275.

**Bowling:** Bumrah 9.1-2-32-1, Shami 10-0-77-3, Saini 10-0-62-2, Jadeja 10-0-58-2, Kuldeep 10-0-65-2.

text. Mohammed Shami (3/77 in 10 overs) and Navdeep Saini (2/62 in 10 overs) then bowled some exquisite toe-crushers to put an end to the contest. Jasprit Bumrah (1/32 in 9.1 overs) was economical as ever and his contribution cannot be overlooked.

However on a placid track, Smith, a proverbial thorn in India's flesh was again proving to be dangerous along with Marnus Labuschagne (44) as they added 96 in quick time.

Ravindra Jadeja (2/58 in 10 overs) steady spell and got rid of Labuschagne in nick of time to upset Smith's rhythm after he had hit nine fours and a six

off 102 balls.

However this match also brings to fore Rahul's emergence as proper keeper-batsman option for white-ball cricket as his extra runs coming in at No 5, proving to be valuable in the end.

Not to forget his reasonably decent keeping effecting a stumping and also took two catches. More importantly, his keeping down the leg-side was far better than Rishabh Pant, who is currently recovering from concussion.

Earlier, it was Dhawan, who missed a well-deserved ton by a whisker but laid a solid platform for the team. — PTI

## Rohit, Dhawan join the list of injured players after 2nd ODI

**Rajkot, Jan. 17:** Senior India opener Shikhar Dhawan joined the list of injured players after Pat Cummins bouncer hit him on the rib cage while batting in the second ODI against Australia, here on Friday.

Incidentally, it was a Cummins bouncer in the first game that had left Rishabh Pant concussed and out of the second match after being rushed to hospital for a precautionary CT scan. "Shikhar Dhawan got hit on the ribcage on his right side. He will not be taking the field today. Yuzvendra Chahal is in as his substitute," a BCCI media release stated. Dhawan was hit in the 10th over of the Indian

## INJURED ROHIT TAKEN OFF THE FIELD

Rohit Sharma was taken off the field after hurting his left hand while fielding in the second ODI against Australia here.

Rohit awkwardly dived to save a boundary at deep point when he hurt his left shoulder in the 43rd over. Rohit running from sweep-er cover made a tumbling effort and was in seen writhing in pain. — PTI



Shikhar Dhawan lies on the ground after being hit on the ribcage during the second ODI against Australia. — AP

## Dada refuses to talk on Dhoni's omission

**Kolkata, Jan. 17:** BCCI president Sourav Ganguly on Friday refused to comment on MS Dhoni's omission from annual central contract list amid fresh speculation on the future of the World Cup winning former captain.

While Dhoni has been left out due for not playing any cricket for six months, it can't be ruled out that he can still be in the mix as far as World T20 in Australia is concerned. "I can't comment on this," Ganguly said in his straightforward response on Dhoni's omission from the BCCI's annual player retainership for 2019-20.

The iconic former captain has been out of action since India's World Cup semifinal loss to New Zealand in July last year. He started training with his state team Jharkhand from Thursday with an eye on IPL comeback for Chennai Super Kings.

Ganguly however spoke on the merger Kolkata's iconic club Mohun Bagan with ATK and hailed it as the "way forward".

"The game of football has

professionalised. This is the right way forward. Many big clubs like Manchester have also done this. Only time will tell (about the success). This is the way forward," the former Indian captain Ganguly said.

The merger has cast doubts over the future of Indian derby from next season as Mohun Bagan's arch-rivals East Bengal are yet to finalise their investors and an entry into the Indian Super League from 2020-21.

"Hopefully, East Bengal will also get into a deal soon. Both are big and heritage clubs from Kolkata and they should play in ISL. It's only a matter of time," the Indian legend Ganguly added.

The former captain had also tweeted immediately after the merger announcement on Thursday: "A momentous partnership for Bengal football. I have no doubt ATK and Mohun Bagan will be torchbearers of moving Indian football forward together. @IndSuperLeague." — PTI

## 'Maiden-over hero' Nadkarni dies at 86

**Mumbai, Jan. 17:** Former India all-rounder Bapu Nadkarni, best known for bowling a record 21 successive maiden overs in a Test match against England, passed away on Friday, family sources confirmed.

Nadkarni was 86 and is survived by his wife and two daughters. "He died of old-age related problems," his son-in-law Vijay Khare said.

Nadkarni, a left-handed batsman and slow-left arm orthodox bowler, played 41 Tests in which he scored 1414 runs and grabbed 88 wickets with 6/43 as his best bowling figures.

Nadkarni was a Mumbai stalwart having played 191 first-class matches and taken 500 wickets and scored 8880 runs.

The Nashik-born Nadkarni made his Test debut against New Zealand in Delhi in 1955 and played his last Test at Auckland against the same opponents in 1968 under MAK Pataudi's captaincy.

However, he rose to fame after he bowled 21 succes-



Bapu Nadkarni

sive maidens. His figures in that Madras (now Chennai) test read 32-27-5-0.

He was known more for his accuracy as he also had Test match figures like the 1960-61 series against Pakistan where he returned with figures of 32-24-23-0 at Kanpur followed by 34-24-24-1 in Delhi. — PTI

## Revisiting cricket's darkest chapter

**Port Elizabeth, Jan. 17:** As England's batsmen carefully negotiated the opening day of the third Test in Port Elizabeth on Thursday, many people in the cricket world were casting their minds back 20 years to another Test in South Africa.

The fifth Test at Centurion in 2000, which ended on January 18 with an exciting narrow England win, was celebrated at the time for its wonderful spirit before the shroud of match-fixing was lifted to reveal a cancer of corruption at the heart of the game.

"It was false, it was fake," Mark Butcher, who opened the batting for England in that game, told TalkSport. It was a Test that marked the beginning of the end for Hansie Cronje, the South African captain, whose new leather jacket — a reward from his bookmaker friend Marlon Arenstam for fixing the outcome of the Test — became for a while the most famous in world sport.

"I saw it at the time as a terrific victory for England," said Darren Gough who hit the winning runs. "If you ask anyone who played in that game or was there to watch they will say they were thoroughly entertained, a belter to play in. Just tainted."



Hansie Cronje

## DOUBLE FORFEIT

The English tourists had been outplayed on the 1999/2000 tour, the series already won by the Proteas who led 2-0. At Centurion, rain threatened a damp and disappointing end to the series, washing out part of the opening day and all of the next three.

South Africa were still batting in their first innings when, after helicopters had been called in to dry the pitch, the fifth day started in front of a respectable crowd. What none of them knew was that plans were afoot to make a game of it. It only emerged several months later why.

Cronje threw England a carrot when he proposed

● **The fifth Test at Centurion in 2000, which ended on January 18 with an exciting narrow England win, was celebrated at the time for its wonderful spirit before the shroud of match-fixing was lifted to reveal a cancer of corruption at the heart of the game.**

both sides forfeit an innings to set up a run chase on the final day. "It just looked like we weren't going to have a game at all," the England captain of the day Nasser Hussain told Sky Sports this week.

"And then on the last day, we were warming up and Hansie went up to Alec (Stewart) and said 'speak to Nasser and we'll do what we do in county cricket and forfeit an innings each and we will set up a game'."

"I said to Alec — 'no, tell Hansie this isn't county cricket, it's a Test match'. Also we were 2-0 down and I didn't want to go 3-0 down!"

Once Hussain saw how easily the pitch was playing on that fifth morning, he changed his mind. "When

we went out there it wasn't a spicy pitch so I thought, well, we can chase on here." Cronje set England a target of 249 in 79 overs. A thrilling chase swung both ways before Gough hit the first ball of the final over for four to seal a two-wicket win for England.

## 'END OF INNOCENCE'

The initial response was celebration of the game. "We had a rough old time on the trip so any inkling of positivity was warmly welcomed with the exception of Athens (Mike Atherton) and myself who thought it was a bit strange," said Butcher.

Atherton has since described it as "the end of innocence". Three months later, Indian police revealed that they had recordings of Cronje conspiring to fix matches with an Indian bookmaker and three months after that Cronje confessed.

The Centurion Test — which yielded him 50,000 rand and the leather jacket — was just one incident in a chapter of fixes that Cronje admitted over the previous four years.

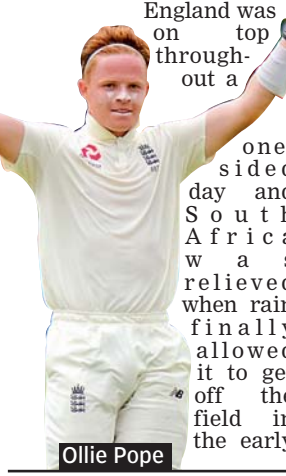
"I had a great passion for the game, my team-mates and my country," he told the commission into the scandal. — AFP

## England on top after twin tons

**Port Elizabeth, Jan. 17:** Ben Stokes and Ollie Pope made centuries to hammer a South Africa team already hit by a ban for its top bowler as England took control on a potentially decisive day of the test series on Friday.

Stokes made 120, Pope 135 not out for his maiden test century, and England surged to 499-9 declared on the second day of the third test in Port Elizabeth.

South Africa couldn't safely see out 18 overs at the end and lost Pieter Malan (18) and Zubayr Hamaza (10) to be 60-2 in reply. Spinner Dom Bess took both wickets.



Ollie Pope



South Africa's Kagiso Rabada celebrates Joe Root's dismissal.

## Pacer Rabada banned for final Test over celebration

**Port Elizabeth, Jan. 17:** South Africa fast bowler Kagiso Rabada has been banned from the series-deciding final cricket Test against England.

Rabada was given a one-Test ban after breaching the International Cricket Council code of conduct for his celebration after getting England captain

Joe Root out on the first day of the ongoing third test in Port Elizabeth.

Rabada ran through and celebrated — fists pumping and screaming — close to Root after bowling him. He was found guilty of "using language, actions or gestures" which could provoke an aggressive response from the batsman. — PTI

evening. Bess constantly troubled the batsmen and fast bowler Mark Wood was clocking speeds of 90 mph (145 kph)

at the other end.

With star allrounder Stokes leading the charge once again, England built a commanding position in

the match and had possibly carved out a key moment in the series, which is level at 1-1 but leaning heavily in the tourists' favor with one more test to come.

South Africa was way behind — trailing by 439 runs — and burdened by the additional blow of fast bowler Kagiso Rabada being banned for the series-deciding fourth and final test in Johannesburg next week.

With that news hanging over them, the South Africans appeared completely deflated in the field and Stokes and Pope took full advantage on a pitch that's pretty tough for bowlers anyway.

Stokes and Pope took their careful 76-run partnership overnight to an unbroken and flourishing stand of 187 by lunch.

They put on a mammoth 203 for the fifth wicket by the time Stokes hit a square drive to be caught by Dean Elgar after lunch and give Dane Paterson a first test wicket on his debut for South Africa.

— AP

**Brief scores:** England 499/9 decl. (O. Pope 135 (not out), B. Stokes 117, K. Maharaj 5/180) vs South Africa 60/2 (D. Elgar 32 n.o., D. Bess 2/12).





## Vinesh wrestles hard

A dominant Vinesh Phogat beat two tough Chinese rivals (Khrystyna Bereza 10-0 and Lannuan Luo 15-5) en route to the 53kg title clash at the Rome Ranking Series

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# Games

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## CHELSEA TAKE ON NEWCASTLE IN PREMIER LEAGUE

London, Jan. 17: Manchester United could find themselves eight points adrift of the top four of the English Premier League by the time they kick-off at Anfield if Chelsea win at Newcastle on Saturday. A win for the Blues on Tyneside

would also put Frank Lampard's men 12 points clear of Tottenham, unless Jose Mourinho's men can snap Watford's winning streak at Vicarage Road. Only Liverpool and City have won more points in the six games since

Nigel Pearson took charge of the Hornets, with 13 from their past five matches propelling them out of the relegation zone for the first time this season.

—AFP

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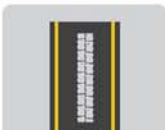


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