



US-Pak ties

US Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia Alice Wells arrives on a 4-day visit to Pakistan

IN BRIEF

Mexico blocks caravan travellers

Ciudad Hidalgo, Mexico: 500 Central American migrants to maintain "order and respect" on Saturday after the group attempted to force entry into the country from Guatemala in the hopes of trekking onward to the United States. Standing on the wall above the Rodolfo Robles International Bridge that connects Mexico with its southern neighbor, National Guard General Vicente Hernandez told migrants they would be allowed to cross the border in a "controlled" manner. "With order and respect, all will be served. There are opportunities for everyone," said Hernandez, who also coordinates the National Guard operations along the Suchiate River, the natural border between Mexico and Guatemala.

Eight die in Czech disability home fire

Prague: At least eight people died and thirty were injured after a fire at a home for people with learning disabilities in a western Czech town early Sunday, rescuers said. "A total of 38 people were affected by the fire, of them eight unfortunately died," emergency services spokesman Prokop Volenik said. He said 30 people were taken to hospital — one in critical condition, three with serious injuries and 26 with light or no injuries. Czech media said the fire was reported at 0349 GMT and that it has been put out. "The fire broke out in the boys' section of a home for the mentally handicapped," said Jitka Gavdunova, the mayor of Vejprty, a small town on the German border some 100 kilometres (60 miles) northwest of Prague. Volenik said all of those affected were adults. The broadsheet DNES daily quoted Gavdunova as saying the clients of the home had tried to set it on fire in the past, and that the home was heavily understaffed. "The deputy mayor ran into the fire to help the clients and he paid for it. He's now in hospital under observation," said Gavdunova.

Taliban kill six of same family

Kabul: Afghan officials said on Sunday that the Taliban executed six members of the same family, including an infant girl, in a remote village in the country's north. The Taliban denied any involvement, saying the attack Saturday was triggered by a personal dispute. However, local Afghan officials said the family was accused by the Taliban of working in prostitution. The insurgents sentenced them to death for immoral acts, then stormed the house and opened fire, according to Jawed Bedar, a spokesman for Faryab province's governor. The infant girl's mother and twin sister survived, but both of the child's legs had to be amputated.

Israel to install sensors along Lebanon border



Jerusalem: Israel's army said it would start drilling to install ground sensors along its border with Lebanon on Sunday, a year after an operation to destroy tunnels dug across the frontier. "We are deploying a defensive system into the ground... in various locations" along the border, spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Jonathan Conricus told journalists. Work would get underway Sunday at the Israeli kibbutz town of Misgav Am, he said, to deploy the new noise-detecting technology. The move comes a year after Israel concluded a weeks-long operation to destroy tunnels it accused Lebanese Shiite group Hezbollah of building. At least six tunnels were discovered in the operation dubbed "Northern Shield" along the border where a United Nations peacekeeping force is deployed. Conricus said the drilling is "not related to any new intelligence" and all military activity would take place on the Israeli side of the border.

Impeachment brazen: Trump lawyers

Prez's legal team presents its line of defence, terms trial 'unconstitutional, dangerous'

Washington, Jan. 18: President Donald Trump's legal team presented Saturday its line of defense for his upcoming impeachment trial, a process they dismissed as unconstitutional and "dangerous."

It was the first time the team presented its arguments, modelled on those put forward since December by Trump and his fellow Republicans.

White House counsel Pat Cipollone will be lead lawyer, backed by Trump's personal attorney Jay Sekulow. They will be joined by Ken Starr, who was at the centre of Bill Clinton's impeachment in the 1990s, and celebrity lawyer Alan Dershowitz.

In an initial response to the president's being charged, written by Cipollone and Sekulow, the defense said that the articles of impeachment - passed by the majority-Democrat

■ The legal document offers a taste of the rhetoric expected to be deployed by the president's defenders in the Senate.

House of Representatives - "are a dangerous attack on the right of the American people to freely choose their president."

"This is a brazen and unlawful attempt to overturn the results of the 2016 election and interfere with the 2020 election," the team said in a statement.

Trump has been impeached on charges that he abused his office to try and force Ukraine into digging up dirt on leading Democratic presidential candidate Joe Biden by withholding \$400 million in military aid and a White House meeting with his Ukrainian counterpart



An activist wearing a mask depicting US President Donald Trump holds a placard as he takes part in a gathering called by activists in Landquart on Sunday — AFP

President Volodymyr Zelensky. He was also impeached for allegedly obstructing Congress.

"The articles of impeachment are constitutionally

invalid on their face. They fail to allege any crime or violation of law whatsoever," the defense team said.

In a call with reporters earlier Saturday, a source close to Trump's legal

team said the articles violate the Constitution because they are "the product of invalid proceedings that flagrantly denied the president any due process rights." — AFP

Trump trial could be over in two weeks

Washington: Bill Clinton's 1999 impeachment trial lasted five weeks; Andrew Johnson's went on for three months in 1868. If the White House and Republicans have their way, President Donald Trump's trial will be over in two weeks, just in time for him to celebrate his expected acquittal in the February 4 State of the Union Address.

But that depends on Republicans being able to block Democrat demands to subpoena documents and witnesses that could strengthen the case against the president. So far, Republicans, led by Trump's tough protector, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, have the upper hand.

Trump's trial for abuse of power and obstruction of Congress opened with a solemn, ceremonial reading of the charges in the Senate on Thursday, but the rules and schedule have not been set. That will be decided on Tuesday, with the 100 senators debating voting on procedures: the time given to opening arguments from the prosecution and defense, and questioning by the senators — the jury in the case. Democrats are demanding that the Senate agree to subpoena crucial documents and four current and former senior White House officials to testify. They include former national security advisor John Bolton and Trump acting chief of staff Mick Mulvaney. — AFP

Baghdad erupts again



Iraqi youth angry at their government's glacial pace of reform ramped up their protests on Sunday, sealing streets with burning tyres and threatening further escalation unless their demands are met. The rallies demanding an overhaul of the ruling system have rocked Shiite-majority parts of Iraq since October, but had thinned out in recent weeks amid rising Iran-US tensions. — AP

Victims' bodies sent from Iran to Ukraine

Kiev, Jan. 19: Around a thousand people including President Volodymyr Zelensky bid farewell to Ukrainians who died in a plane mistakenly shot down by Iran during a spike in tensions with Washington.

Zelensky laid flowers on the flag-draped coffins of the 11 Ukrainian victims - nine flight crew and two passengers - during the solemn ceremony at Kiev's Boryspil airport and briefly spoke to their relatives.

The caskets were to remain for several hours at the terminal so that relatives, Ukraine International Airlines staff and ordinary Ukrainians could say their last goodbyes.

The funerals are expected to be held on Monday.

Earlier Sunday the black-clad Ukrainian leader, Prime Minister Oleksiy Goncharuk and top officials stood on the tarmac outside the terminal to see the caskets with the remains of the downed plane's nine Ukrainian flight crew and two passengers being removed from the aircraft.



Soldiers carry the flag-draped coffins of the 11 Ukrainians who died in a plane mistakenly shot down by Iran at Kiev's Boryspil airport on Sunday — AFP

■ IRAN'S PARLIAMENTARY speaker has warned of unspecified repercussions for the UN's nuclear watchdog if European nations that launched a dispute mechanism against the Islamic republic act "unfairly".

Ukraine International Airlines staff, some in tears, stood nearby clutching flowers.

The airline staff and relatives formed two lines to make a corridor through which the honour guard carried the caskets draped in the yellow-and-blue flag of Ukraine.

Some men fell to one knee to honour the victims. The honour guard also held flags of the countries whose citizens perished in the crash.

The Kiev-bound UIA Boeing 737 crashed shortly after taking off from Tehran on January 8, killing all 176 people on board, mostly Iranian and Canadian citizens.

"Deep condolences to the relatives and eternal memory to the victims," Oleksiy Danilov, secretary of Ukraine's Security Council, said on Facebook.

"Our work will not end until the full clarification of the circumstances of the tragedy and the punishment of the guilty," he added. Ukrainian Foreign Minister Vadym Prys-taiko said on Twitter he was "deeply grateful for the messages of condolence & solidarity that we have received from around the world." — AFP

Boycott Communist Party: HK protesters

Hong Kong, Jan. 19: Clashes broke out between protesters and police in Hong Kong on Sunday, cutting short a rally after thousands had gathered at a park to call for electoral reforms and a boycott of the Chinese Communist Party. Police fired tear gas near the park, known as Chater Garden, after some protesters attacked plainclothes officers — a return to the violence that has roiled the Chinese territory off and on for months.

Sporting their movement's trademark black clothing and face masks, rally participants had earlier packed into Chater Garden, located near the city's Legislative Council building. They held up signs that read "Free Hong Kong" and waved American and British flags. "We want real universal

■ TWO POLICE officers were beaten bloody by pro-democracy protesters in Hong Kong Sunday. A group of plainclothes officers who were speaking with organisers were then set upon by masked protesters.

suffrage," the protesters chanted.

"Disband the police force, free Hong Kong!" Hong Kong media outlets reported that police arrested the rally's organizer, Ventus Lau, shortly after he spoke to reporters. Local broadcaster RTHK cited fellow organizers as saying that Lau was arrested for allegedly violating the police's conditions for the

rally. Earlier in the day, Lau said he believes more large-scale protests are needed for global attention to return to Hong Kong, with the protest movement losing some of its momentum in recent weeks.

"I think Hong Kong has not been the focus of the world anymore," he said.

He urged other countries to launch sanctions against Hong Kong's government if it does not allow residents to directly elect Legislative Council members this year. A former British colony, Hong Kong was returned to China in 1997.

While the framework of "one country, two systems" promises the city greater democratic rights than are afforded to the mainland, protesters say their freedoms have been steadily eroding under Chinese President Xi Jinping. — AP



Riot police detain a protester in Hong Kong on Sunday — AP

COMING HOME

■ One died in captivity near Nigerian coast

19 abducted Indians released

Abuja, Jan. 19: Nineteen Indians, kidnapped by pirates from a commercial vessel from the high seas off the western coast of Africa last month, have been released while one died in their captivity, according to the Indian mission here.

Twenty Indian crew members were kidnapped from the vessel MT Duke in the high seas off the western coast of Africa on December 15.

The High Commission of India in Abuja on Sunday tweeted that 19



Indian nationals were released on Saturday while one died in the captivity of the pirates in

■ AS MANY as 20 Indian crew members were kidnapped from the vessel MT Duke in the high seas off the western coast of Africa on December 15

"adverse conditions". India thanked the Nigerian authorities for their assistance in the release of the abducted Indians.

"Indian Govt and Mission gave highest pri-

ority and worked with @NigeriaGov on release of 20 Indian seafarers kidnapped on 15 Dec from MV Duke. 19 were released yesterday. One sadly died in captivity in adverse conditions. Our deepest condolences. Mission assiting in speedy return," the Indian High Commission tweeted.

The Indian mission in Abuja had taken up the matter with the Nigerian authorities and also with the authorities of the neighbouring countries. — PTI

Preparing for satellite launch, says Tehran

Tehran, Jan. 19: Iran said Sunday that two newly constructed satellites have passed pre-launch tests and will be transported to the nation's space centre for eventual launch, without elaborating.

Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Javad Azari Jahromi tweeted about the development, calling it an "important research step."

Iran has not said when it will launch the satellites, but often coordinates its launches with national holidays. It will celebrate the 41st anniversary of the Islamic Revolution next



month. Iran's largely state-run media say the 90-kilogram (200-pound) Zafar satellites each have four high-resolution color cameras and will monitor and transmit data on natural resources as well as agricultural and environmental developments. — AP

YEMEN: 80 SOLDIERS KILLED IN DRONE ATTACK

Dubai, Jan.19: More than 80 Yemeni soldiers have been killed and scores injured in a missile and drone attack blamed on Huthi rebels in central Yemen, medical and military sources said Sunday.

Saturday's strike follows months of relative calm in the war between the Iran-backed Huthis and Yemen's internationally recognised government, which is backed by a Saudi-led military coalition.

The Huthis attacked a mosque in a military camp in the central province of Marib — about 170 kilometres east of the capital Sanaa — during evening prayers.

A medical source said that 83 soldiers were killed and 148 injured in the strike. Death tolls in Yemen's grinding conflict are often disputed, but the huge casualty list in Marib represents one of the bloodiest single attacks since the war erupted in 2014 when the rebels seized Sanaa.

Saudi-owned Al-Hadath television broadcast a video that it said showed the gruesome aftermath of the attack.

Body parts can be seen on the floor, among shredded debris, and with blood pooled on the carpet and spattered against the walls. The drone and missile strike came a day after coalition-backed government forces launched a large-scale operation against the Huthis in the Nihm region. — AFP

By arrangement with Dawn

In a virtual environment, such as a computer simulation

The set of circadian factors that determine whether someone is a morning person or an evening person

DECCAN CHRONICLE

MONDAY | 20 JANUARY 2020 | HYDERABAD

Think tanks' role growing: Is that a good thing?



Mohan Guruswamy

The word “think tank” owes its origins to John F. Kennedy, America’s 35th President, who collected a group of top intellectuals in his White House — people like McGeorge Bundy, Robert S. McNamara, John Kenneth Galbraith, Arthur Schlesinger and Ted Sorensen, among others, to give him counsel on issues from time to time. He described it as having them on tap and on the turn of the spit, good advice was on hand. He called them his “think tank”. Kennedy, describing their first dinner meeting, said the White House never had so much brilliance and brain power in its dining room since Thomas Jefferson had dinner alone in it.

The United States always had a tradition of academics and

policy wonks flitting in and out of government for short periods. Most of these academics came from top institutions like Harvard, Yale, Princeton and Stanford. But very few academics would trade in a tenured professorship for a White House or top administration job. Universities would give leave of absence for upto two years, after which the job was lost. America’s academics still prize a tenured professorship to even a Cabinet post. In fact, they often see even a top government job as a kind of public service.

When I entered the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard as an Edward S. Mason Fellow in 1981, Nobel laureate Thomas Schelling introduced Edward Mason to my class by saying: “When I joined the Harvard faculty, Ed Mason was already a big man. We used to hear that he would one day become secretary of state.

But Ed Mason went one better. He became dean of the School of Government!” This only shows how much a top job in academia is prized in the US. John F. Kennedy himself wanted to join the Harvard faculty after completing his second term, and hence his family endowed the Institute of Politics and the Presidential Library to be a part of Harvard. That didn’t happen, but the School of Government was renamed the Kennedy School.

In India, think tanks are not really places where any thinking is done. They are mostly talk shops where retired bureaucrats and generals shoot the breeze. Discussions are usually full of the “I think” and “I believe” stuff that New Delhi is already so full of. Few do any research. Even fewer can write. Frankly, I am surprised that three of our think tanks actually figure among the top 100.

Most of India’s think tanks are in New Delhi, not surprisingly, as the NCR has the maximum number of retired officials — still anxious to serve the nation. And this service often pays off with jobs in government on a rehired basis. The top think tanks in New Delhi are government supported and

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funded. The security think tanks like CLAWS, CAPS, NMF and IDSA are adjuncts of the armed services and the defence ministry. Most of the time they function as lobbyists for the service headquarters that funds them. The government appoints the head of IDSA. The United Services Institution is not a think tank, but from time to time fancies itself as one. The economics area think tanks such as ICRIER, ICAER, etc derive their funding largely from the government and multilateral bodies. The prestigious Centre for Policy Research (CPR), located in New Delhi’s posh Chankayapuri, was originally funded by the Ford Foundation, but now largely self-supports itself doing mostly government projects.

In recent years we have seen the emergence of many privately-funded think tanks. The Observer Research Foundation, initially funded by Reliance Industries Ltd, has of late shown a degree of entrepreneurship that Dhirubhai Ambani himself would have approved of. It now raises a good part of its funding from the government and foreign institutions. Late last year, the Brookings Institution, America’s biggest and most prominent think tank, made its entry into India, with Brookings India lavishly and slavishly funded by a galaxy of Indian industrialists.

Vivekananda International Foundation (VIF) is a RSS-funded think tank and the stable currently in favour. It too has a very small body of seriously cerebral work to show. It too was mostly a talk shop and a pamphleteer for the Hindutva cause. I see nothing wrong in the RSS having a think tank of its own. Some think suggests that all is not blind belief. One day I hope the VIF puts out a study that nuclear weapons and even aircraft are of relatively recent origin, and not technologies that were forgotten with the Vedic period!

Many think tanks have of late

found a new line of activity and sustenance as event managers for various ministries. The external affairs ministry is very short-staffed and is also seriously lacking in intellect. Therefore it has to farm out workshops and lecture events for visiting delegations and dignitaries to the think tanks. Many foreign arms manufacturers also sponsor seminars, which subtly push a certain line or weapons system. Some years ago, CAPS organised a lavishly mounted “seminar” at the Oberoi Hotel mostly focused on the MMRCRA and other pending modernisation projects. Companies like Boeing, Lockheed Martin and Raytheon sponsored the event. No guessing on why they were interested.

I am very concerned by the emergence of Brookings so close to the policy making centre in India. Already we have CII and Ficci, which serve the interests of its member companies, Indian and foreign, cloaking their lobbying as “common good” policy suggestions. CII, in the era of Dr Manmohan Singh and Montek Singh Ahluwalia, played a major role in shaping India-US relations. It actively lobbied for a closer engagement with the United States. In fact, the head honcho

of CII those days, a man named Tarun Das, made it his life’s mission to make India a full-fledged American ally. After CII, and a tearful farewell on TV after being ousted in the Nira Radia tapes, he now runs something called the Aspen Institute, also devoted to closer Indo-US ties. Aspen is now the counterpart of the now-defunct Indo-Soviet Council on Understanding (ISCUS), where people like Indar Kumar Gujral and Hemvati Nandan Bahuguna cut their teeth.

Having said all this, I still believe that it is a good thing that think tanks are mushrooming in New Delhi. They provide a platform for discussion, even if they shed more heat than light. With Parliament almost incapable of any serious debate, informed discussion and civilised discourse, where does this nation get its intellectual churn? Thank God for the think tanks. As that famous man said: “Let a hundred flowers bloom; let a hundred schools of thought contend.”

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

When resistance becomes a people’s protest, only the people will prevail

M.Q. Ali Shah
Abul-Ulai

For the first time in six years, the NDA government appears to be rattled, if one goes by its reaction to the protests that have erupted across the country against the Citizenship Amendment Act and National Register of Citizens.

Try as it might, the government is seemingly unable to convince the people that its decisions to amend the citizenship law and conduct the NRC across the country are in their larger interests.

For a juggernaut that had levelled everything in its path over the past six years, being stopped by the common man is something the government never expected. In the common man, the Narendra Modi-led government has found its toughest adversary yet, one that is refusing to be subjugated, refusing to be overawed, refusing to be convinced on the CAA or NRC.

Thus far, the Narendra Modi government has been able to either woo its political rivals or subjugate them with the help of pliant courts and browbeat officials. If these didn’t work, the threat of the investigative agencies breathing down their necks did the trick. However, the government hasn’t been able to do the same with the anti-CAA protesters, and not for the lack of trying. It may have expected violence and also the average Muslim to take to the street and protest against the CAA, but did not obviously expect non-Muslims too to hit the streets.

The absence of violence (aside from that reported in BJP-ruled states) has deprived the government of an opportunity to raise the bogey of “Hindus under threat because of such people who are violent and don’t belong here”.

Non-Muslims too joining the protests have meant that it is unable to disregard or discredit the rallies by relegating them to one community. Also, non-Muslims joining the rallies have led the government to realise that it is now a people’s protest.

It can safely be assumed that not all

those who are protesting today are solely against CAA; their angst has been building up over the past few years.

They kept quiet while waiting for hours in queues to withdraw their own money, and did not murmur even when the government kept shifting the goalposts to justify demonetisation.

They were silent when leaders of the ruling party tried to distort history; when it fielded a terror accused for the Lok Sabha, when a state was placed under lockdown for months; when the cops were given a free hand to “encounter” anyone they pleased; when an attempt was made to malign a dalit student who committed suicide; when people were lynched at will and the accused felicitated publicly and when they were given many other reasons.

Perhaps it was the police brutally beating up Jamia and AMU students protesting against it, or perhaps the government’s attempt to obfuscate its ineptness at handling the economic slowdown by communalising society, the people finally resisted.

And history tells us that when resistance becomes a people’s protest, only the people will prevail.

This was proven when one man led thousands to brave the lathis of the British and stand resolute to bring the mighty British Empire to its knees. This was also proven when a Prime Minister as dominant as Indira Gandhi was swept out of power after her tryst with the Emergency and Jayaprakash Narayan emerged on the political horizon.

While the recent protests may be quite distinct from the satyagrahas led by the Mahatma or the post-Emergency scenario in the way they are conducted, the goal is the same: India’s future.

These days, the protesters invariably gather at a predetermined place, read the Preamble to India’s Constitution, their voices getting slightly louder when the word “secular” is mentioned. Quite a few carry photographs of the Constitution’s drafter, B.R. Ambedkar.

Invariably, the protesters sing the national anthem as one, be it on the footpaths of a mosque, in a park or on the road. Also, the average protester has realised that public memory is short and has adapted accordingly.

The style of protest has undergone a

sea change; the protester is aware that no newspaper worth its name will these days print a photograph of cops bodily lifting and dragging men into waiting vans. He knows that this is now limited to TV cameras and the scene is forgotten the moment a viewer changes the channel.

These days, the focus is on innovative, witty messages that will later be shared on the social media and proudly displayed on the protester’s Facebook / Instagram account.

The two major rallies in Hyderabad recently against the CAA have seen the famed Hyderabad wit at its best. Like the other protests across India, they had innovative messages, slogans and pamphlets drawing one’s attention. However, the Hyderabad humour involving the humble “baigan” (brinjal, or eggplant) making the otherwise dull protests more interesting deserves particular mention.

Savour this slogan during an anti-CAA protest: “*Yaha biryani ke saath piyaaz dhoonde toh nai milri, 50 saal ke documents kya milte baigan, hau re haule!*” (It is impossible to find onions in biryani, how can one find 50-year-old documents baigan, you idiot?).

The slogans and placards display far more creativity, humour and mockery and ensure the message is conveyed quite clearly.

Earlier, protests were fairly monotonous, and desperate, with only slogan shouting or walking, holding placards, save for someone like the late Naramalli Sivaprasad, who made protesting an art form. His protests are legendary, sometimes dressed like Lord Ram or Lord Krishna or anyone else. Being a former actor helped him draw attention and make a point.

Some political leaders adapt to the situation while staging their protest: who can forget Lagadapati Rajagopal going on a “fast” to prove KCR wrong and even donning a burkha to dodge the cops?

But these people have or had a support system in place, an entire army of assistants and party cadre.

The common man has adapted too, and has taken recourse in his native intelligence and wit to make his point, and of course stay within the ambit of law. These days, the common protester is aware that police intolerance to peace-

ful protest is high across India, quite the opposite of the Anna Hazare days.

The common protester is very careful not to allow matters to get out of hand; not shout provocative slogans; not give the authorities any excuse to deny permission or take to the baton.

These days, protesters dance and sing and generally behave as though they are enjoying themselves. This is a new language the average policeman is unable to comprehend.

The police traditionally have loved psychological games, but this new type of protester is leaving the cops, like the government, confused. The reaction of the police, most of the times, is to take to the lathis or resort to arrests. Here too the cops are facing a dilemma, particularly with the younger lot who are increasingly aware of their rights. These protesters are far more adventurous, and relaxed, even in custody.

Also, the protester has grown much more aware of his rights, questioning the police, sometimes goading them to cooperate instead of obstructing the protest. The tricolour also comes into play more and more, and the slogans have moved on from the ubiquitous “Inquilab Zindabad” to the more catchy “Azaadi”.

Another welcome change in the way the protesters behave after the protest: The sight of protesters cleaning up the venue of the Million March in Hyderabad, shared on the social media and published in newspapers went a long way in countering the aggressive posturing of the ruling party and its army of bhakts.

However, not all protests are about the common man. Deepika Padukone’s 10-minute silent act of solidarity with the JNU students protesting against the attack on them may have rattled the government enough for a Union minister to launch a tirade against the actress, even indirectly questioning her patriotism. Deepika, being the star that she is, may have forced the BJP’s IT cell to go into overdrive, but the fact remains that the common man who has been protesting across the country ever since Parliament passed the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, has put the ruling party on the backfoot.

The writer is a journalist based in Hyderabad



Kishwar Desai

London Diary

Brexit is past: We are now divided by Megxit

How seriously should we take the media? And how seriously should the media take itself? Should it be hysterical and intrusive, or calm and inclusive? These have been some of the questions raised by the event that has overshadowed Brexit: Megxit (as it has been so unelegantly called). Was this a storm waiting to happen, or was it the fault of another dratted American divorcee yet again?

The exit of Meghan and Harry, the soon-to-be-former Duchess and Duke of Sussex, to another country to escape the media glare, the giving up of their titles, and now their offer to pay for the refurbishment of their home in UK, Frogmore House, is not just a storm in an ongoing reality show. It also speaks about the enormous difficulty of maintaining majestic dignity in the face of constant social media assaults. Who needs the Kardashians, when we have the Windsors? Brexit is past. We are now divided by Megxit.

The tabloids have had a love-hate relationship with royalty, that is nothing new. It is only the Queen that they adore; though even her mystique has been dented worldwide with the airing of *The Crown*. But no one could have anticipated the extent of the current crisis. I have to say one is feeling rather sorry for Meghan, Harry and little Archie. To have to leave their homes to get peace of mind has been difficult enough, but it seems the tabloids will still not back off. There is little acknowledgment of the bullying behaviour they have indulged in. Anyone who has been trolled and abused will understand. To be subject to this constant barrage for a young mother would have been scary.

The Sussexes kept trying to find refuge for the past one year; by physically removing themselves from London and shifting to Frogmore, by not appearing in public than was strictly necessary, by even disappearing over Christmas. Harry still carries scars of what happened to his mother, because no matter how far she ran, there was always a camera spying on her.

Yet instead of a deep introspection, and the drawing up of new rules by the media regulatory authority, the tabloids have further turned it into an Ekta Kapoor serial. Or a game of Let’s Blame The Bride, because she is alienating her young husband from his family, while the grandmother is stoic as she tells the country she will bear up. People are totally divided over whether Meghan is an angel or a devil. A fierce quarrel erupted on BBC Question Time last Friday between the actor Laurence Fox and a guest on the show, academic Rachel Boyle, who called him a white privileged man for criticising Meghan. He tweeted later that he was “drinking all of these leftist tears” nonchalantly.

There is even a court scene coming in the near future with the young royals facing the *Daily Mail* in an explosive case. Her estranged father will appear against her and for the tabloid she is suing. For a climax to a TV serial you could not do better.

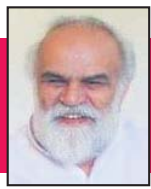
But where will they go and settle? Canada has been rumoured as a destination. When they were last there, Justin Trudeau said “Come back again anytime.” The Canadian high commission treated them to a dinner and served them their favourite chocolate dessert from Vancouver Island, possibly their intended Canadian home. Now that it could become a reality, Canadian newspapers have launched their own war. The largest selling newspaper, *Globe*, has raised the issue of who is going to pay for their security. Not Canada, it says. But then, it has been suggested that Harry could be appointed governor-general of Canada (for life?). That will solve problems of who pays for their security and also give an income to suit their style. Meanwhile, the erstwhile royals will need jobs: Meghan will no doubt return to the world of show business and is already doing a voiceover (where the proceeds will go to charity) and Harry will have to find a job suitable for an ex-royal.

The really serious charge is that Meghan quit because of racism. Could that have been the case, apart from the constant media intrusion into her life? I find this a little problematic — because whilst one has not personally experienced it, I know that some people still find the UK a racist nation, even as you climb higher into more and more protected and privileged circles. But this is not unusual in situations where power is held by a few. A conservative royal household which runs on tradition may have been stifling for an outsider.

Despite the challenges, the young couple has handled their departure from the royal household frontline as best they could. They are obviously keen to bring up their young son in a less frenetic environment. However, they will have sacrificed a lot — a regular and large income, a luxurious life, endless publicity, and the undoubted love from many of the British people. Thus, instead of indulging in outrage and criticism, the tabloids and social media ranters should consider toning down their pursuit of celebrity gossip. They must learn to draw the line between private and public space. And perhaps stricter government rules need to be drawn up on how to treat the UK’s best known brand, the royals.

The writer is an award-winning author. Her new book, Jallianwala Bagh, 1919: The Real Story, has just been published.

Can one be drunk and still get enlightened?



Swami Chaitanya Keerti



Recently, someone sent me a question: How can Osho, as an enlightened master, drink a glass of champagne offered by Ma Anand Sheela while travelling to America, as shown in *Wild Wild Country*? This is a relevant question. Society does not expect the spiritual ones to have alcoholic drinks. Osho also did agree to it. He says: Alcohol can disturb before the enlightenment because it can make you more unconscious that’s its whole purpose. Your consciousness is burdened so much with anxieties, worries, anguish, that

you take a drink and feel good because your consciousness goes to sleep. Hence, before enlightenment, any kind of intoxicant is absolutely to be dropped. It affects your consciousness and drags it downwards towards darker realms of unconsciousness.

Osho became enlightened at the age of 21. And enlightenment is something that happens forever, one does not become endarkened after this happening. So a glass of champagne could never affect his enlightenment. In tantra traditions, we have known tantrikas who could

drink a few jugs of wine and still remain fully aware. Jesus used to drink wine, and Gurdjieff and so many other mystics could enjoy wine without getting drunk or intoxicated.

Osho says: Just the other day somebody had asked a question — “Jesus used to drink alcohol. What do you say about it?” I can allow Jesus! He was so conscious that he could afford to drink once in a while. But I cannot allow you. You are already so unconscious, you are already so burdened; now, making you more unconscious will be dragging you towards hell. In the East, particularly in India, there has existed a tremendously beautiful esoteric school of tantrikas. One of their very secret methods is that whenever a master thinks that a disciple is ready, he allows him to drink alcohol or take some other drug in small portions, in

small quantities, slowly. As his meditation deepens, he is allowed to drink bigger amounts. The only condition to be fulfilled is that he should remain conscious. Even under the influence of the drug, he should remain conscious — that is the only condition to be fulfilled. This is a rare experiment! And a moment comes when a real meditator can drink as much... he can drink alcohol just like water and he will remain as centred as ever, as conscious as ever. That is the crucial test. Osho warns: Ego is very intoxicating, remember it. It is more alcoholic than any alcohol can be. And it is pious; when it is pretending to be holy it is very pious — and a pious poison is the purest poison. Avoid it.

Swami Chaitanya Keerti, editor of Osho World, is the author of Mindfulness: The Master Key



Going green

Gas-rich Qatar signed a \$470-million deal on Sunday to build its first solar energy plant, capable of meeting up to one-tenth of peak national power demand

DECCAN CHRONICLE

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World

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IN BRIEF

Oldest scorpion fossil found

New York: Researchers have discovered the oldest-known scorpion species, which may have lived approximately 437 to 436 million years ago, a finding that sheds light on how creatures adapted to living on land. The scorpion, named *Parioscorpion venator*, is described in the journal *Scientific Reports* as the oldest-known scorpion reported to date, and may have been capable of leaving its marine habitat and venturing onto land — a behaviour similar to that of present-day horseshoe crabs.

According to the scientists, including Andrew Wendruff from the Otterbein University in the US, scorpions are among the first animals to have moved from the sea onto land.

Why are men more prone to cancer?

Melbourne: Researchers have identified a key biological mechanism that puts men at higher risk of cancer than women, an advance that may lead to more personalised lines of treatment and prevention for each gender.

According to the study, published in the *Journal of the National Cancer Institute*, the higher risk of cancer seen in men could be due to the loss of function in certain genes of the sex-determining Y chromosome, which is present only in men. Chromosomes are coiled thread-like structures containing the genetic material in the form of Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA) and several proteins involved in regulating the genome. While embryos carrying two X chromosomes develop into human females, those with one X and a Y chromosome develop into biological males.

Fitbit data to track flu epidemic

Los Angeles: Researchers have reported for the first time that the resting heart rate, and sleep data from wearable devices can be used for real-time prediction of infectious diseases like influenza, an advance that may lead to new ways of forecasting epidemic outbreaks. According to the study, published in the *Journal The Lancet Digital Health*, people's resting heart rate spikes up during infections, and this is captured by wearable devices like smartwatches, and fitness trackers like Fitbit. The researchers, including those from Scripps Research Translational Institute in the US, de-identified data from 47,249 Fitbit users, and retrospectively identified weeks during which they had elevated resting heart rate, and changes to routine sleep.



LONELINESS BEHIND PHONE ADDICTION

London: Students who use digital technology excessively are less motivated to engage with their studies, and are more anxious about tests, according to a study which says the effects may be worsened by increased feelings of loneliness. As part of the study, published in the *Journal of Computer Assisted Learning*, 285 students who had enrolled in health-related degree courses were assessed for their digital technology usage patterns, their anxiety, loneliness, study skills and motivation. The researchers, including those from Swansea University in the UK, found a negative relationship between internet addiction, and motivation to study. Students reporting more internet addiction, they said, found it harder to organise their learning productively, and were more anxious about upcoming tests. Internet addiction was also associated with loneliness which made study harder, the scientists reported. "These results suggest that students with high levels of internet addiction may be particularly at risk from lower motivations to study, and, hence, lower actual academic performance," said study co-author Phil Reed. About one-fourth of the students said they spent over four hours a day online, and the rest reported that they spent between one to three hours everyday.



This photo shows a burnt out part of local farmer Rick Morris' 2,300-acre property on Kangaroo Island after bushfires ravaged the island off the south coast of Australia.

Fires: Irreversible forest losses in Oz

Landscape is being permanently altered, say scientists

Canberra, Jan. 19: Australia's forests are burning at a rate unmatched in modern times and scientists say the landscape is being permanently altered as a warming climate brings profound changes to the island continent.

Heat waves and drought have fueled bigger and more frequent fires in parts of Australia, so far this season torching some 40,000 square miles, an area about as big as Ohio.

With blazes still raging in the country's southeast, government officials are drawing up plans to reseed burned areas to speed up forest recovery that could otherwise take decades or even centuries. But some scientists and forestry experts doubt that reseeded and other intervention efforts can match the scope of the destruction. Before the recent wildfires, ecologists divided up Australia's native vegetation into two categories: Fire-adapted landscapes that burn periodically, and those that don't burn. In the recent fires, that distinction lost meaning — even rainforests and peat swamps caught fire, likely changing them forever.

Victoria braces for heavy storms

Melbourne, Jan. 19: Australian forecasters warned on Sunday of severe storms to hit the bushfire-hit state of Victoria, which could lead to flooding. The Bureau of Meteorology in Victoria issued severe thunderstorm warnings for parts of the state on Sunday, saying damaging winds and heavy rainfall were expected.

It said storms and widespread rainfall were forecast in the state for the next three days.

One forecaster from the bureau said the state was "about to see it's wettest two-day period in many, many months". At least 14 fires were still burning in

Victoria as of Sunday.

In New South Wales, where 69 fires were burning on Sunday, forecasters said that widespread heavy rainfall in the north of the state would ease, as it withdrew flood warnings for the Bellingen and Orara rivers. Meanwhile, officials in the third bushfire-hit Queensland urged people to "exercise caution" on Gold Coast beaches, where "large water movement and significant debris" were expected after heavy rainfall on Saturday. The fires, which began in September 2019, have claimed 28 lives, destroyed thousands of homes and scorched millions of acres of land.

— IANS

Flames have blazed through jungles dried out by drought, such as Eungella National Park, where shrouds of mist have been replaced by smoke.

"Anybody would have said these forests don't

burn, that there's not enough material and they are wet. Well they did," said forest restoration expert Sebastian Pfautsch, a research fellow at Western Sydney University. "Climate change is hap-

Safer homes for volcano residents in Philippines

Tagaytay (Philippines), Jan. 19: Philippine officials said Sunday the government will no longer allow villagers to return to a crater-studded island where an erupting volcano lies, warning that living there would be "like having a gun pointed at you". Taal volcano has simmered with smaller ash ejections in recent days after erupting on January 12 with a gigantic plume of steam and ash that drifted northward and reached Manila, the capital, about 65 kilometres away.

While the volcano remains dangerous, with large numbers of local villagers encamped in emergency shelters, officials have begun discussing post-eruption recovery. Interior Secretary Eduardo Ano said officials in Batangas province, where



Nick Salazar clears volcanic ash from the eruption of the Taal volcano, from the roof of his house in Buso on Sunday.

the volcano is located, have been asked to look for a safer housing area, at least 3 hectares in size, for about 6,000 families that used to live in four villages and worked mostly as tourist guides and farmers on Volcano Island. The new housing

site should be at least 17 kilometres away from the restive volcano to be safe, he said. The island has long been declared by the government as a national park. A volcano-monitoring agency has declared the island a permanent danger zone.

— AP

AI can recognise dance fingerprint

London, Jan. 19: Each person's dancing style has a unique signature — regardless of the type of music — and this pattern can be accurately identified by a computer, according to a study.

The study, published in the *Journal of New Music Research*, used motion capture technology — the kind used in Hollywood — to learn what a person's dance moves say about their mood, how extroverted or neurotic they are, and how much they

empathize with others. "We actually weren't looking for this result, as we set out to study something completely different," said Emily Carlson, the first author of the study from the University of Jyväskylä in Finland. "Our original idea was to see if we could use machine learning (ML) to identify which genre of music our participants were dancing to, based on their movements," Carlson said.

— PTI

WHAT'S IN A NAME

Mistake renders Jinping's name to Mr Shithole

Facebook sorry for Xi's name gaffe

Naypyidaw (Myanmar), Jan. 18: Facebook apologised Saturday for a distasteful mistranslation of Chinese President Xi Jinping's name from Burmese language posts during his much-touted visit to Myanmar.

His two-day visit to Myanmar's capital Naypyidaw was the first made by a Chinese leader in almost two decades.

But the historic moment was dimmed by the automatic translation feature

on Myanmar's Facebook page — which rendered Xi Jinping's name from Burmese into English as "Mr Shithole".

The error most notably appeared on the official Facebook page of Myanmar's civilian leader Aung San Suu Kyi.

"Mr Shithole, President of China arrives at 4 PM," said a translated announcement posted earlier Saturday.

"President of China, Mr. Shithole, signed a guest



Chinese President Xi Jinping

record of the house of representatives," it continued.

Facebook said it was

month, pledged in its election manifesto to increase power from offshore wind from 10 to 40 gigawatts this decade.

It wants Britain to be carbon neutral by 2050, with onshore wind, solar, hydro and biomass also set to contribute to its energy mix. The country already produces almost 40 percent of its electricity from renewable sources, according to figures published last week for the third quarter of 2019. Britain plans to favour the development of colossal offshore wind farms given the country's relatively small land mass.

There were 38 operational sites comprising around 2,000 turbines at the end of 2018, according to the last available figures from the Crown Estate, the hereditary land and

property portfolio of the royal family which owns most of Britain's seabed. Nearly 1,000 more turbines are already in the planning stages.

Two of the biggest projects are Walney Extension, in north Wales, and London Array, at the mouth of the River Thames. The two sites are home to the highest concentration of British offshore farms, thanks to the windy weather conditions created by their geography. Several other projects are also under way, including at Hornsea and Dogger Bank off the coast of Yorkshire, which will compete for the title of largest offshore wind turbine field in the world. Johnson has also touted rolling out floating wind farms, which utilise cutting-edge technology.

— AFP

Indian being treated for infection in China

Beijing, Jan. 19: A 45-year-old Indian school teacher in the Chinese city of Shenzhen is undergoing treatment for a Streptococcal infection which was initially suspected to be a case of the mysterious SARS-like coronavirus prevalent in the country.

Coronaviruses are a broad family of viruses, but only six are known to infect people. At the mild end they cause the common cold, but SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome) is a coronavirus that killed nearly 650 people in China and Hong Kong in 2002-2003.

Preeti Maheshwari, a teacher at an international school in Shenzhen, is being treated for Streptococcal infection, her husband Ashuman Khowal told PTI from Shenzhen.

He said the doctors said she was being treated for the infection in the intensive care unit and is currently on a ventilator and other supporting systems.

Initially it was suspected that Maheshwari may have been suffering from a new type of coronavirus. Khowal, however, clarified that his wife had been diagnosed as having Streptococcal infection.

Chinese city of Wuhan is currently under the grip of a new mysterious viral pneumonia. According to the official media reports, tentative diagnosis of the pneumonia is caused by a coronavirus.

The virus has caused alarm in China because of its connection to SARS.

According to the reports from Wuhan, where the virus started surfacing few weeks ago, 17 new cases have been reported, taking the total number of cases to 62.

A total of 19 people have been cured and discharged from the hospital, and the rest remain in isolation receiving treatment, state-run Xinhua news agency reported on Sunday.

Two people in Shenzhen are currently in quarantine at the Third People's Hospital, which specialises in the treatment of infectious diseases, Hong Kong-based South China Morning Post reported.

India on Friday issued an advisory to its nationals visiting China following a second death due to



Medical staff members carry a patient into the Jinyintan hospital in Wuhan in China.

— AFP

Seventeen new viral cases in China

Beijing, Jan. 19: Seventeen more people in central China have been diagnosed with a new form of viral pneumonia that has killed two patients and placed other countries on alert as millions of Chinese travel for Lunar New Year holidays.

In total, 62 cases of the novel coronavirus have been identified in the city of Wuhan, where the virus appears to have originated. The Wuhan Municipal Health Commission reported the new cases in a statement Sunday.

Nineteen of those individuals have been discharged from the hospital, while two men in their 60s — one with severe pre-existing conditions — have died from the illness. Eight are in critical condition.

At least a half-dozen countries in Asia and three U.S. airports have started screening incoming airline passengers from central China. The list includes Thailand and Japan, which have together reported three cases of the disease in people who had come from Wuhan.

In the most recently

■ At least a half-dozen countries in Asia and three U.S. airports have started screening incoming airline passengers from central China

■ 62 cases of the novel coronavirus have been identified in the city of Wuhan, where the virus appears to have originated, the Wuhan Municipal Health Commission said

diagnosed group, ages ranged between 30 and 79, Wuhan's health commission said. Their initial symptoms were fever and cough.

The health commission's statement did not say whether these patients had visited the Huanan Seafood Wholesale Market, which has been suspended after many infected individuals reported having either worked at or visited the venue.

Li Gang, director and chief physician of the Wuhan Center for Disease Control and Prevention, told state broadcaster CCTV that "the infectivity of the new coronavirus is not strong."

— AP

UK to use offshore wind for green energy shift

London, Jan. 19: Britain, a global leader in offshore wind energy, plans to make the sector one of the pillars of its transition to carbon neutrality in the coming decades.

The country aims to quadruple its offshore electricity production capacity by 2030 by utilising the windswept North Sea and a favourable policy environment. "It's more conducive to build offshore in the UK than anywhere else in Europe," said James Brabben, of Cornwall Insight energy consultancy. "There's quite a consensus of support around offshore wind from the public and politicians," he said. Prime Minister Boris Johnson's government, returned to power with a thumping majority last

month, pledged in its election manifesto to increase power from offshore wind from 10 to 40 gigawatts this decade.

It wants Britain to be carbon neutral by 2050, with onshore wind, solar, hydro and biomass also set to contribute to its energy mix. The country already produces almost 40 percent of its electricity from renewable sources, according to figures published last week for the third quarter of 2019. Britain plans to favour the development of colossal offshore wind farms given the country's relatively small land mass.

There were 38 operational sites comprising around 2,000 turbines at the end of 2018, according to the last available figures from the Crown Estate, the hereditary land and

property portfolio of the royal family which owns most of Britain's seabed. Nearly 1,000 more turbines are already in the planning stages.

Two of the biggest projects are Walney Extension, in north Wales, and London Array, at the mouth of the River Thames. The two sites are home to the highest concentration of British offshore farms, thanks to the windy weather conditions created by their geography. Several other projects are also under way, including at Hornsea and Dogger Bank off the coast of Yorkshire, which will compete for the title of largest offshore wind turbine field in the world. Johnson has also touted rolling out floating wind farms, which utilise cutting-edge technology.

— AFP



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quick
BITES

INDICATORS	%
Sensex	41,945.37 0.03
Nifty 50	12,352.40 -0.03
S&P 500*	3,329.62 0.39
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)*	64.85 0.001
IN 10-Yr bond yield	6.622 0.024
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	1.825 0.001

* As of Saturday

Passenger
vehicle exports
up 6% in Apr-Dec.

Passenger vehicle (PV) exports rose by 5.89% in the first nine months of FY20, with Hyundai Motor leading the segment with dispatches of around 1.45 lakh units, as per Siam data. PV exports stood at 5,40,384 units in the April-December period compared with 5,10,305 units in the year-ago period. Car shipments saw 4.44% growth at 4,04,552 units.

Disney removes
Fox from 20th
Century Studios

Disney is making its acquisition of 21st Century Fox official, with the studio dropping the name Fox from the brand. Disney bought 21st Century Fox assets for \$71.3 bn last year. According to Variety magazine, the 20th Century Fox film studio will be rechristened as 20th Century Studios, and Fox Searchlight Pictures will become Searchlight Pictures.

Bank unions call
two-day strike
from Jan. 31

The United Forum of Bank Unions, which represents nine trade unions, has given a call for a two-day strike from Jan. 31. It has also called a three-day strike from March 11, and if the demands are not met, an indefinite strike from April 1. The unions are asking for wage revision settlement at 20% of pay-slip, five-day banking & merger of spl allowance with basic pay.

DLF penalised
for non-transfer
of shares

The NCLAT has directed DLF to register transfer of 60,000 shares to the legal heirs of a deceased shareholder and imposed a cost of Rs 5 lakh for "harassing the poor investors". A three-member bench observed that DLF insisted again and again for affidavit and indemnity bond in spite of having a Letter of administration for succession, and DLF's action deserved penal action.

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■ Delinquency trends in retail loans likely to deteriorate

Provisioning to stay
high for banks in Q3FALAKNAAZ SYED
MUMBAI, JAN. 19

The pace of new bad loan formation for banks is likely to remain elevated for the quarter ended December 31, 2019 due to the recognition of lumpy corporates like Dewan Housing Finance Ltd, Reliance Home Finance and Reliance Commercial Finance, Suzlon Energy, CG Power & Industrial Solutions and some real estate companies.

Banks have recognised DHFL and Cox & Kings as fraud and those that have an exposure to these accounts will have to provide 100 per cent upfront for the exposure. Also, some large corporate groups remain stressed, including Essel, Cafe Coffee Day, while there are new additions in the recent past like Vodafone, Altico, Omaxe, Peninsula Land and Karvy Broking, leading to heavy corporate stress loans pipeline.

While DHFL's total debt is about Rs 80,000 crore, lenders exposure to the account is around Rs 40,000 crore. Similarly, banks have an exposure of over Rs 5,000 crore to Reliance Home Finance, Rs 4,970 crore to Coffee Day Enterprises and more than Rs 4,000 crore to CG Power.

On the positive side, resolu-



tions too have gathered pace, such as Essar Steel, Ruchi Soya, Prayagraj Power Generation Company, Rattan India Amravati and Coastal Energen. Factoring in some of these resolution in Q3, including Essar Steel, the non-performing assets could moderate for lenders that have an exposure to these accounts.

For instance, both HDFC Bank and IndusInd Bank that have announced their Q3 FY20 earnings saw a steep rise in loan loss provisioning due to their exposure to DHFL. On Saturday private lender HDFC Bank saw provisions and contingencies rise by 38 per cent to Rs 3,043.6 crore for Q3FY20, as

against Rs 2,211.5 crore in Q3 FY19. The specific loan loss provisions in the current quarter included one-offs of about Rs 700 crore, primarily relating to certain corporate accounts and specific agri accounts, the bank said.

Despite lower net interest margins and higher loan loss provisions of 130 basis points, HDFC Bank reported a net profit of Rs 7,400 crore, up 33 per cent YoY, mainly helped by strong fees and non-performing asset (NPA) recovery. Fresh NPAs were elevated at Rs 5,300 crore including Rs 1,500 crore, mainly due to lumpy corporate and continued stress in agri (seasonal trend/loan waivers). Healthy credit

Duty-free
alcohol may be
cut to 1 bottle

New Delhi, Jan. 19: The commerce ministry has recommended restricting purchase of tax-free alcohol to one bottle at duty-free shops as part of steps to reduce import of non-essential goods, sources said.

The ministry has also recommended to the finance ministry purchase of cigarette cartons at duty-free shops should be prohibited. These recommendations are part of proposals made by the ministry for the forthcoming Budget on February 1.

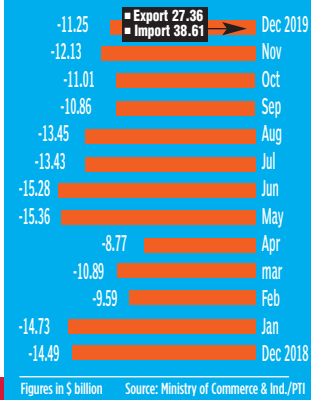
Currently inbound international passengers are allowed to buy two litres of alcohol and a carton of cigarette from these shops.

According to sources, there are countries that allow only one litre of liquor to international passengers and the same practice can be adopted in India.

The government is looking at various ways to curtail import of non-essential goods to rein in trade deficit.

—PTI

India's trade deficit



Figures in \$ Billion Source: Ministry of Commerce & Ind./PTI

Airtel adds life cover
to prepaid bundle

Airtel on Sunday announced a term life cover of ₹2 lakh from Bharti AXA Life Insurance. "Priced at... ₹179, Airtel's new prepaid bundle offers unlimited calling to any network, 2 GB data, 300 SMS along with a term life cover of ₹2 lakh from Bharti AXA Life Insurance," the company said. The pack has a validity of 28 days. The insurance cover is available to customer aged 18-54 years and requires no paperwork or medical test, it said.

Over 70% dip in
100 days work
under MGNREGASANGEETHA G
CHENNAI, JAN. 19

With just two more months to go for the financial year 2019-20 to end, the number of households which have completed 100 days of guaranteed employment under the Mahatma Gandhi Rural Employment Guarantee scheme is down by 72 per cent. The number of person days generated too is down by 38 per cent.

As per government data, 14,55,805 households have completed 100 days of guaranteed employment this fiscal till January 19 against 52,59,912 in FY19 – a drop of 72 per cent.

MGNREGA is meant to provide guaranteed 100 days of employment to the rural poor. The scheme has provided an average of 41.44 days of employment per household. Even the number of households which have worked this fiscal is down at 4.81 crore against 5.27 crore last year.

MGNREGA has so far generated only 199 crore person days against 267 crore person days in the previous fiscal. Among 12.43 crore active MGNREGA workers, only 6.8 crore individuals have worked so far this fiscal.

However, of the total available funds of Rs



Only 14,55,805 households, or 72% less, have completed 100 days of guaranteed employment till Jan. 19 against 52,59,912 in FY19

Scheme has provided an average of 41.44 days of employment per household

No. of households which have worked this fiscal is down at 4.81 cr Vs 5.27 cr last year

Of the total available funds of ₹61,452 crore, 85%, or ₹52, 513 crore, has been spent on the scheme

61,452 crore, 85 per cent, or Rs 52, 513 crore, has been spent on the scheme. Last fiscal, the total available funds for the scheme were Rs 69,228 crore and the government had spent 100.56 per cent of the available funds.

Though the average wages per day per person is just a tad higher at Rs 181 this year against Rs 179 last year, the total wages of Rs 37,453 crore paid till now is 20 per cent lower than last year's total wages of Rs 47,172 crore.

Despite the government's proposal to upgrade the skills of

MGNREGA workers, the material and skilled wages stood at Rs 12,782 crore, 34 per cent down from last year's Rs 16,465 crore.

The scheme has completed 56 lakh work against 90 lakh work in FY19—down by 38 per cent. However, the total number of work taken up during this fiscal was 164 lakh. This included both new and spillover works of the previous year.

MGNREGA payouts have been a key factor that has affected the rural economy adversely this year.

MG Motor's e-SUV makes a splash

MICHAEL GONSALVES
PUNE, JAN. 19

Even as the country has not been fully geared with the adequate infrastructure like charging stations, MG Motor has already sold over 2,100 units of its upcoming electric SUV, the ZS EV is less than a month.

In fact, MG Motor, the British brand owned by the Chinese biggest automaker SAIC, says that the ZS EV's booking numbers have surpassed the cumulative electric vehicle sales of Mahindra e-Verito and Mahindra e2o, Tata Motors Tigor EV, and Hyundai Kona EV for the April to December 2019 period, which stood at 1,554 units.

The New Delhi-based car maker, which opened the pre-bookings for the MG ZS EV on December 22, closed it on January 17 to meet timely delivery to buyers.

"The car has best specification and technology and driving performance is very



good," Rajeev Chaba, President and MD at MG Motor India told *Financial Chronicle*.

He said the company is supporting with charging infrastructure for the buyers at their homes and offices.

"We will announce the car's price within week," Chaba said.

Buoyed by the strong response for the electric SUV, the company has decided to prepone the launch of the SUV from January 27 to January 23. The e-SUV is expected to be priced close to Rs 20 lakh.

FPIs put in over ₹10K cr in Jan.

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD
MUMBAI, JAN. 19

Foreign portfolio investors have maintained a positive view on the Indian equity market so far in 2020, with net investments worth Rs 10,200 crore in January so far. The month has also seen reduced market volatility due to lower inflows in mutual funds

and redemptions by retail investors.

NSDL data shows FPIs invested Rs 10,200 crore in equity as on Jan. 18, 2020. Last year FPIs had invested over Rs 1 lakh crore in Indian equities.

Vinod Nair, head of research at Geojit Financial Services, said, "FPIs were maintaining its risk-on strategy with posi-

tive inflows in emerging market (EM), with expectation of no hike in US Fed rate and improvement in EMs economies during calendar year 2020."

India's high foreign exchange reserves is keeping rupee-dollar exchange rates in a narrow range, which is seen as giving comfort to FPIs in investing in India.

Over 100 Indian CEOs to attend WEF meet in Davos

Davos, Jan. 19: As the rich and powerful from across the globe assemble this week in this Swiss ski resort town to discuss a 'cohesive and sustainable world', over 100 CEOs as also some central ministers and chief ministers from India would also be present alongside filmstar Deepika Padukone and Sadhguru.

While Deepika will talk about mental health and other issues, Sadhguru will hold morning meditation sessions at the summit being attended by over 3,000 world leaders. US President Donald Trump, Britain's Prince Charles, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Afghanistan's Ashraf Ghani and Pakistan Prime

Minister Imran Khan would be among the world leaders attending the five-day, 50th annual meeting of WEF beginning Monday.

The World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2020, taking place on January 20-24, will focus on establishing stakeholder capitalism as a way of addressing the world's greatest challenges, from societal divisions created by income inequality and political polarisation to the climate crisis.

Underpinning the meeting will be the Davos Manifesto 2020, a document that builds on the original Davos Manifesto of 1973, which set out for the first time the stakeholder concept that businesses should serve the



Deepika Padukone to speak on mental health

interests of all society rather than simply their

shareholders'. The Davos Manifesto

2020 provides a vision for stakeholder capitalism that touches on a range of important issues like fair taxation, zero tolerance for corruption, executive pay and respect for human rights.

"Business has now to fully embrace stakeholder capitalism, which means not only maximising profits, but use their capabilities and resources in cooperation with governments and civil society to address the key issues of this decade. They have to actively contribute to a more cohesive and sustainable world," said Klaus Schwab, WEF founder and executive chairman.

This year's programme focuses on achieving maximum impact on the

forum's platform for public-private cooperation across six core areas of activity: Ecology, Economy, Society, Industry, Techno-logy and Geopolitics.

Those who are registered for the event from India include industry leaders Gautam Adani, Rahul and Sanjiv Bajaj, Kumar Mangalam Birla, N Chandrasekaran of Tata Group, Uday Kotak, Rajnish Kumar of SBI, Anand Mahindra, Sunil and Rajan Mittal, Ravi Ruia, Pawan Munjal, Nandan Nilekani and Salil Parekh of Infosys, C Vijayakumar of HCL Tech, Ajay Piramal, Rishad Premji, Ajay Singh and Pirojsha Godrej.

—PTI



Bizarre act

France's Gael Monfils injures hand after he lashes out in frustration while playing a computer game – but does not expect the bizarre injury to hamper his Australian Open

Games

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SHORT TAKES

India edge Holland in shoot-out to lead

Bhubaneswar: India made a dream debut at the FIH Pro League, beating world number three Netherlands 3-1 in the shoot-out after both the teams were locked 3-3 at the end of regulation time in the second match of the two-leg tie here on Sunday. World number five India had earlier defeated Netherlands 5-2 in the opening match of the tie on Saturday. India are now atop the leaderboard with five points from two games, but the Manpreet Singh-led side conceded a point to the Netherlands after drawing (during the regulation time) the second match of the contest on Sunday. As per the new rules implemented by the International Hockey Federation (FIH) in the second edition of the Pro League, every match of a tie has to produce a result. In case of a draw, the match would be decided by shoot-out and the side which wins will garner two points and the losing team will get one point.

— PTI



Ganesh Dhanavat

TELANGANA'S GANESH LIFTS SILVER MEDAL

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JAN. 19

Telangana's Ganesh Dhanavat won silver in the under-17 weightlifting, 73kg category, at the Khelo India Youth Games currently underway in Guwahati, Assam, on Sunday. The state-lad made a total lift of 245kgs — 107 in snatch and 138 in clean & jerk categories respectively — to claim the second spot on the podium. Meanwhile, Kiran Ravindra Marathe of Maharashtra aggregated 251kgs (111 in snatch and 140 in clean & jerk) for his gold and Delhi's Shiva Chaudhary finished third with a total lift of 244kgs (109 snatch and 135 in clean & jerk).

OLDIES VS NEXTGEN

Melbourne, Jan. 19: Old stagers Novak Djokovic and Serena Williams will aim to keep the younger generation of players waiting in the wings as Grand Slam tennis enters a new decade at the Australian Open on Monday.

After recent bushfire smog largely cleared in Melbourne, the view is all too familiar with Djokovic and Williams, who is seeking a record-equalling 24th Major title, installed as the bookies' favourites.

Top seed Rafael Nadal, 33, is celebrating becoming world number one in a third decade while Roger Federer, 38, is trying to defy the ageing process and stay ahead of his rivals with a 21st Grand Slam win.

The start of 2020 is not dissimilar to 2010, when Federer and Nadal shared the four Grand Slam titles and Williams won in Melbourne and Wimbledon.

Ten years later, the men's Big Three — who have won all but two Australian Open titles since 2004 — occupy the top three rankings, and Williams is one step away from Margaret Court's record for Grand Slam wins.

The men's dominance is stark: since Federer won his first Grand Slam title in 2003, only five Major finals have not featured one of the Swiss, Nadal or Djokovic.

Several challengers have come and gone but there is increasing hope for the men's up-and-comers, while nine women have won Grand Slam titles since Williams, 38, claimed her 23rd in Melbourne in 2017.

'THEY'RE VERY CLOSE'

While Djokovic and Nadal split last year's Grand Slams, Dominic Thiem, Daniil Medvedev and Fabio Fognini won their first Masters trophies and Stefanos Tsitsipas, 21, became the youngest ATP Finals champion in 18 years.

"They're very close. I don't think that's miles, miles away maybe as it was some years ago. I think they are definitely hungry. They're knocking on the door."

But for that to happen, the likes of Stefanos Tsitsipas, Daniil Medvedev and Dominic Thiem still have so work to do.

"Well, they're coming closer and closer. It's obvious," said the Serbian world number two who has been at the top of the game for well over a decade.

He pointed to Russia's Medvedev pushing Nadal hard in last year's US Open final, Greek Tsitsipas making the semis at Melbourne Park a year ago and Austria's Thiem playing the finals at Roland Garros in 2018 and 2019.

The clash between old and new will be epitomised in the first round on Monday, when Venus Williams, who turns 40 this year, plays 15-year-old rising star Coco Gauff.

Japan's Naomi Osaka, 22, is defending a title for the second Grand Slam in a row after her repeat bid at last year's US Open fell flat in the fourth round.

World number one Ashleigh Barty, fresh from winning the Adelaide International on Saturday, carries Australian hopes of seeing the first home-grown women's winner since 1978.

"Obviously it's the perfect preparation. But regardless of whether I won the title or not last week, I feel like I'm well-prepared," Barty said. "I'm happy. I'm healthy. I'm coming into the first Grand Slam of the year with a smile on my face."

That's all I can ask of myself." The tournament is taking place against the backdrop of a bushfires emergency that has swept the nation and ramped up fears over global warming — and billowed choking smog across Melbourne and other cities. After player anger during qualifying and practice, when several were hit by coughing fits and breathing problems, air pollution returned to 'moderate' levels over the weekend, with rain forecast for the start of the tournament.

Djokovic, Serena lead old guard as newbies Tsitsipas, Osaka out to impress



Switzerland's Roger Federer trains on Sunday. — AFP

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They're very close. I don't think that's miles, miles away maybe as it was some years ago. I think they are definitely hungry. They're knocking on the door.

— Novak Djokovic,
of the NextGen winning a Major title

Palace hold City, Chelsea collapse

London, Jan. 19: Pep Guardiola's 49th birthday celebrations went flat as Fernandinho's late own goal forced Manchester City to settle for a 2-2 draw against Crystal Palace, while Chelsea's top-four bid was dented by a surprise 1-0 defeat at Newcastle on Saturday.

On a busy day of top-flight action, the pitchside VAR monitor was used in the Premier League for the first time at Norwich and Arsenal held to a 1-1 draw by Sheffield United.

It was the drama at the Etihad Stadium that took the spotlight as Fernandinho's last-gasp blunder left Guardiola in no mood to party after City's faint hopes of retaining the title suffered another hammer blow.

Cenk Tosun marked his first league start since his loan move from Everton with his maiden goal for the Eagles, the Turkish striker netting a close-range strike from Martin Kelly's flick in the 39th minute.

Sergio Aguero appeared to have turned the game on its head in the 82nd minute when the Argentine striker bagged his 250th goal in 360 games for the club.

Aguero put City ahead in the 87th minute with a header from Benjamin Mendy's cross.

But there was a sting in the tale for Guardiola as Fernandinho turned Zaha's cross into his own net in the 90th minute. Chelsea would have

THE RESULTS

Arsenal (Martinelli 45)	1
Sheffield United (Fleck 83)	1
Manchester City (Aguero 82, 87)	2
Crystal Palace (Tosun 39, Fernandinho 90-og)	2
Newcastle (Hayden 90+4)	1
Chelsea	0
Brighton (Trossard 38)	1
Aston Villa (Grealish 75)	1
Norwich (Pukki 33-pen)	1
Bournemouth	0
Southampton (Bednarek 15, Long 35)	2
Wolves (Neto 53, Jimenez 65-pen, 76)	3
West Ham (Diop 40)	1
Everton (Calvert-Lewin 44)	1

cemented their grip on fourth place with a win on Tyneside, but they were unable to muster the cutting edge required to break down stubborn Newcastle and fell to Isaac Hayden's header with just 20 seconds left in stoppage-time, losing 0-1. Chelsea's first defeat in four league matches leaves them five points clear of fifth-placed Manchester United.

— AFP

CASEMIRO TO REAL'S RESCUE, ATLETICO LOSE

Madrid, Jan. 19: Real Madrid started without their top scorer, captain and record signing on Saturday but claimed a scrappy 2-1 win over Sevilla that sent them above Barcelona and top of La Liga.

Karim Benzema, Sergio Ramos and Eden Hazard were all absent at the Santiago Bernabeu but Casemiro stepped up in their place.

His first double as a Real player proved the difference amid a three-goal flurry in the second half, during which Luuk de Jong had briefly pulled Sevilla level at the Santiago Bernabeu.

"Two goals for him is very unusual," said Real Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane.

His team were largely underwhelming, at times reverting to the stodgy days of last season when they struggled for goals under Julien Lopetegui, who was this time in the dug-out of Sevilla.

Yet given those missing, the opposition and the performance, this might be the kind of victory that could prove crucial to Madrid winning the title in May.

Sevilla stay fourth, eight points off the top while Atletico Madrid in third are now the same margin behind after falling to a surprise 0-2 loss away at Eibar.

— AFP

State shuttler Siril shines at senior ranking tourney

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JAN. 19

Former junior world number 1 ASS Siril Verma and Assam's Ashmita Chaliha and registered contrasting wins in the men's and women's finals respectively at the Yonex Sunrise All India Senior Ranking Badminton tournament held in Goa on Sunday.

Siril fought back from a game down to beat C. Rahul Yadav 15-21, 21-10, 21-13 to clinch the men's singles title while Ashmita defeated second seed Malvika Bansod 21-18, 21-17 in just 35 minutes in the women's singles title clash.

In the doubles events, national champions Sikha Gautam and Ashwini Bhat enhanced their chances of making it to the Indian team after getting the better of K. Maneesha and Rutuparna Panda 21-17, 13-21, 21-15 in an hour and 20 minutes.

Panda and Maneesha had won the women's doubles title in Bengaluru, beating the national champions.

Panda, however, made amends in the mixed doubles as she partnered G. Krishna Prasad to defeat Sunjith S. and Shruthi K. P. 21-10, 21-17 in the final.

The men's doubles combination of Dhruv Kapila and M. R. Arjun showed the power of youth as they defeated veterans V. Diju and Rupesh Kumar 21-13, 21-7.

The All India Ranking tournaments held in Bengaluru last week and



Telangana's ASS Siril Verma poses with the trophy after winning the men's title at the Yonex Sunrise All India Senior Ranking Badminton tournament held in Goa on Sunday. Siril beat C. Rahul Yadav 15-21, 21-10, 21-13.

the recently concluded tourney in Goa will also serve as the selection criteria for the Asian Team Championship to be held next month.

I-LEAGUE | FOOTBALL

Bagan savour derby delight

Kolkata, Jan. 19: Mohun Bagan, who will join Indian Super League from next season as a merged team with ATK, beat arch rivals East Bengal 2-1 in a emotion-packed penultimate Kolkata I-League derby at the Salt Lake Stadium here on Sunday.

Spaniard Joseba Beitia gave Mohun Bagan an 18th minute lead with a free header, a result of 20-year-old Nongdamba Naorem's livewire passing from the left-flank.

East Bengal, who played under pressure in the first-half, looked a transformed unit after the break but Mohun Bagan struck through Baba Diawara (65th) against the run of play with the man-of-the-match Beitia sending in a clinical corner kick.

The Senegalese rose to the occasion and nodded it home to seal three points for Mohun Bagan, consolidating their position atop the table, in front of a massive turnout with 63,756 fans watching the match.

They now have 17 points from eight matches, six clear of second placed Punjab FC in an unbeaten six matches run. East Bengal suffered their third defeat in a row to be on eight points from seven matches.

A lacklustre East Bengal reduced the margin through Marcos Jimenez de La Espada (72nd) as there were a slew of attacks from the red-and-

gold camp but none of them resulted in a goal.

It was substitute Edmund Lalrindika who showed his class with a delightful through ball to Espada as he shot low to the goalkeeper's right to reduce Mohun Bagan's lead.

But minutes later, there was another jolt for East Bengal as Edmund, who came in as a substitute, limped off the ground after suffering an injury.

East Bengal also had their best chance in the 80th minute when Juan Mera's 30-yard shot bounced off the crosspiece. Pressing hard, East Bengal had several chances coming in their way in the dying moments but none of them resulted in a goal.

East Bengal also appealed for a penalty in the 60th minute when Marcos, who himself seemed to have handled the ball, was brought down inside the Mohun Bagan box by Sankar Roy but referee Ajitkumar Meitei had other ideas.

With Mohun Bagan announcing their merger with two-time ISL champions ATK, this was the penultimate Kolkata derby in the I-League era.

And Mohun Bagan made it special, winning their first derby since January 21, 2018 — a 2-0 win in I-League. Since then, Mohun Bagan had failed to win from four matches, including two in I-League. — PTI



Mohun Bagan players celebrate their 2-1 win over East Bengal in their I-League match in Kolkata on Sunday.

LATE KERALA OWN GOAL GIFTS JAMSHEDPUR WIN

Jamshedpur, Jan. 19: Jamshedpur FC snapped their winless run in the Indian Super League with a dramatic 3-2 win against Kerala Blasters here on Sunday.

Bartholomew Ogbeche turned hero from villain for Kerala Blasters, scoring a 87th minute own goal after his goal in the 55th.

Earlier, Raphael Messi Bouli (11th) broke the deadlock before Noe Acosta (39th) and the two teams went into the break all-square.

Abdul Haku was sent off for a second yellow card after the restart but Ogbeche had given his team the lead. Sergio Castel (75th) also got on the score sheet after making his return to the game after six weeks.

The confidence of two back-to-back wins was evident in how Kerala approached the game in the early stages. The visitors pressed high up the field and their work rate was rewarded in the 11th minute. Subrata Paul made a complete mess of a poor backpass by Bikash Jairu as he failed to make contact with the ball in an attempt to kick it away from danger.

— PTI

Gayatri to take on Sindhu in opener

Chennai, Jan. 19: World champion P. V. Sindhu will take on her mentor Pulella Gopichand's daughter Gayatri in an interesting opening day match featuring Hyderabad Hunters and Chennai Superstarz in fifth edition of the Premier Badminton League starting on Monday.

Seven teams — Awadhe Warriors, Bengaluru Raptors, Mumbai Rockets, Hyderabad Hunters, Chennai Superstarz, North Eastern Warriors and Pune 7 Aces — will slug it out for a prize of ₹6 crore.

This will be the second consecutive season with Hyderabad Hunters for the Rio Olympic silver medalist, who led the Chennai franchise to title glory in the second season.

With Chennai's Kirsty Gilmour playing at the Thailand Masters, this will be a priceless opportunity for the 16-year-old debutante Gayatri to hone her skills and gain confidence

PBL SEASON 5

in front of home fans.

Lakshya Sen, who won a staggering five titles in 2019, headlines the men's singles department in Chennai Superstarz along with the youngest player in PBL-5, S. Sankar Muthusamy and K. Sathish Kumar.

Former World Championships bronze medalist Tommy Sugiarto, who was the MVP in the first season of PBL, will be another key attraction in the Chennai squad.

The Chennai crowd will also get to witness the fiery smashing skills of one half of India's No. 1 men's doubles team, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy, who is donning the Chennai jersey this time. With veteran Sumeeth Reddy being in the team along with upcoming talent Dhruv Kapila, the men's doubles side in Chennai looks robust.

— PTI



Ridiculous!

Former Australia fast bowler Brett Lee has termed ICC's decision to ban South Africa speedster Kagiso Rabada for one Test for his aggressive celebration against England as "ridiculous"

DECCAN CHRONICLE

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Cricket

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SHORT TAKES

Shaw slams 150 in India 'A's win

Lincoln (New Zealand): Prithvi Shaw slammed a 100-ball 150 in India A's 12-run victory over New Zealand XI in the second practice game here on Sunday, coming back from an injury in the manner that matched the hype around him. Eyeing a return to the Indian senior team, the 20-year-old Shaw struck 22 fours and two sixes during his blazing knock at the Bert Sutcliffe Oval. Shaw's knock will certainly excite the selectors as they pick the squad for the Test series in New Zealand. The first Test will get underway on February 21 at the Basin Reserve in Hamilton and the second match is scheduled to be played at the Hagley Oval in Christchurch, starting February 29. Batting first, India A were all out for an imposing 372 in 49.2 over before restricting the home side to 360 for six. — PTI

Rain spoils Windies march

Basseterre (Saint Kitts and Nevis): Captain Kieron Pollard produced the best bowling spell by a West Indian in Twenty20 International cricket on Saturday before rain forced the second match of a three-game series against Ireland to be abandoned. Pollard took 4-25 as Ireland were limited to 147-9 in a clash reduced to 19 overs a side. Set a rain-revised target of 152 to win, the West Indies reached 16-1 after 2.2 overs before rain caused another in a series of stoppages. Umpired eventually called the game off as a no result. Ireland lead the series 1-0 after their dramatic four-run win in the opener in Grenada on Wednesday. The third and final game is also in St Kitts on Sunday. Pollard ripped the heart out of the Irish middle order by removing top scorer Gareth Delany, whose 44 included five sixes, skipper Andy Balbirnie (36) as well as Gary Wilson (five) and George Dockrell (two). — AFP

Brief scores: Ireland 147/9 (G. Delany 44, K. Pollard 4/25,) vs West Indies 16/1 (Simmons 10, Stirling 1/11). No Result.

Gujarat take lead versus Hyderabad

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JAN. 19

Gujarat grabbed a lead of 101 runs at the end of the second day's play in their Under-19 Cooch Behar Trophy match against Hyderabad being played at the Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium in the city on Sunday. Resuming on 88/3, Prateek Reddy emerged the pick of the batsmen with a fine 94-run knock as the hosts were dismissed for 244.

Rishi Umrigar impressed with 4/62 for the visitors. At stumps, Gujarat were 123/3 in 43 overs with M. R. Vachheta unbeaten on 48 and Arya Rathod at the other end on 33.

Brief scores (Day-2): Gujarat 222 in 56.5 overs & 123/3 in 43 overs (Arya Desai 37, M. R. Vachheta 48 n.o., Arya Rathod 33 n.o., Venkata Chaitanya 2/36) vs Hyderabad 244 in 64.4 overs (A. Vaishnav Reddy 46, Prateek Reddy 94, RishiUmrigar 4/62, Umang 3/12).

PROTEAS ON BRINK OF DEFEAT

Port Elizabeth: England captain Joe Root produced a Test-best bowling performance to send South Africa hurtling towards a humiliating defeat on the fourth day of the third Test at St George's Park on Sunday. Root took four for 31 as South Africa slumped to 102 for six after being forced to follow on. They were still 188 runs short of avoiding an innings defeat, with England seemingly assured of taking an unbeatable 2-1 series lead into the final Test starting in Johannesburg on Friday.

England dominated the day despite a second lengthy rain break in two days. They needed only 28 balls to dismiss South Africa's last four batsmen for the addition of a single run at the start of play, with Stuart Broad picking up three of the wickets without conceding a run. South Africa were all out for 209 and Root immediately enforced the follow-on. Rain early in South Africa's second innings threatened to thwart England's push for victory but Wood struck twice. — AFP

Brief scores: England 499/9 decl. vs South Africa 209 & 102/6 in 62 overs (Root 4/20).

Sweet revenge

Rohit, Kohli sizzle as India settle old score against Aussies

RAM TEJA | DC
BENGALURU, JAN. 19

Rohit Sharma struck his 29th ODI century as India beat Australia by seven wickets to clinch the three-match series 2-1 at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium on Sunday.

Rohit's knock of 119 (128 balls) was laced with eight boundaries and six sixes. Along with captain Virat Kohli (89), he forged a match-winning stand of 137 runs.

Chasing 287 in the decider, Rohit brought his A-game to the fore as he effortlessly cantered through the chase along with Kohli. He fell soon after completing his century, trying to hoist Adam Zampa.

Kohli took over the mantle from his deputy, keeping the asking rate in check and accelerating towards the end. He fell short of a century by 11 runs as Josh Hazlewood rattled his stumps with a perfect yorker but the game was done and dusted by then.

Shreyas Iyer (44 not out) and Manish Pandey (8 not out) applied the finishing touches for the chase that was always in control for the hosts from the start.

Rohit got off to a flier as he punished loose deliveries from Mitchell Starc and Pat Cummins with disdain. He saw through the first power play without the loss of a wicket. Openers Rohit and K.L. Rahul put on 69 runs before Ashton Agar had latter trapped lbw, with the help of the Decision Review System (DRS).

The introduction of spin from both ends slowed the Indian run-rate down as only 32 runs were scored between overs (11-20) with Zampa and Agar bowling tight lines.

Earlier, Steve Smith struck a brilliant hundred as Australia put on 286 for nine. Smith's knock of 131 (132 balls)

consisted of 16 boundaries and one six as the former Australian captain hit his ninth one day hundred and first in India to lead the visitor's charge in the crunch game.

Smith came in at number three and anchored the Australian innings first along with Marnus Labuschagne with a 127 run partnership before changing gears as wickets fell at regular intervals. Smith was eventually dismissed by Mohammad Shami as he holed out to Shreyas Iyer in the deep but not before ensuring that the visitors put up a respectable total on board. Shami was the pick of the Indian bowlers picking up 4/63 landing his yorkers on spot.

Shami had Warner caught behind without allowing the southpaw to settle in and a horrible mix-up between Steve Smith and Aaron Finch (19) saw the latter stranded short of his crease after a steady start. The opening power-play yielded 56 runs as familiar nemesis Smith and Labuschagne came together in the middle. Labuschagne was given a reprieve early on in his innings as Kuldeep Yadav failed to gather the ball cleanly and dislodge the stumps. The duo kept the scoreboard ticking with a 100 run partnership. Labuschagne who had a breakthrough Australian summer in the longest format showed that he can adapt his game to the limited-overs format as well.

He played perfect fiddle to Smith with a well-composed half-century (54) that frustrated the Indian bowling.

Jadeja broke the crucial 127 run partnership having Labuschagne hit through the off side as



Virat Kohli (left) and Rohit Sharma run between the wickets during their match-winning stand against Australia on Sunday. — RAJKUMAR SAMUEL

VIRAT KOHLI

R	B	6s	4s
89	91	0	8

ROHIT SHARMA

R	B	6s	4s
119	128	6	8

FASTEST TO 9,000 RUNS IN ONE-DAYERS

Batsman	M	I
Virat Kohli (India)	202	194
AB de Villiers (SA)	214	205
Rohit Sharma (India)	224	217
Sourav Ganguly (India)	236	228
Sachin Tendulkar (India)	242	235

FASTEST TO 5,000 RUNS AS SKIPPER IN ODIs

Batsman	M	I
Virat Kohli (India)	86	82
MS Dhoni (India)	145	127
Ricky Ponting (Aus)	137	131
Graeme Smith (SA)	137	135
Sourav Ganguly (India)	140	136

Hayden says Aussies are red-hot favourites for Test series at home

Bengaluru, Jan. 19: The return of "legends" Steve Smith and David Warner besides a world-class bowling attack makes Australia red-hot favourites for the home Test series against India later this year, reckons the great Matthew Hayden.

India made history in Australia last January by winning their maiden Test series win Down Under, ending a 71-year wait. But, at that time, Smith and Warner were serving one-



Matthew Hayden

year ball tampering bans. "India and Australia, they are titans of the game. It is a shame that it is not a five-Test series, it is the absolute right number of

Test matches to play. If you take this three game ODI series, before an exciting environment is created by the fans, it is over," Hayden said.

"It is going to be a closely fought series. Australia obviously have the conditions in their favour and world class bowling attack and probably the best off-spinner that has ever played (Nathan Lyon)... Australia should win," said on the sidelines of the series decider. — PTI

Dhawan's NZ tour in doubt after injury

Bengaluru, Jan. 19: Senior India opener Shikhar Dhawan's trust with injuries continued as he did not come out to bat after hurting his left shoulder during the third ODI against Australia here on Sunday.

After being taken for an X-ray, Dhawan was seen with his left arm in sling, putting under doubt his participation in the New Zealand tour, starting January 24 with a T20 match in Auckland. The team is set to leave for New Zealand on Monday morning.

Dhawan was taken off the field in the fifth over of the game at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium. He had dived to save an Aaron Finch shot in the cover region, hurting his shoulder. He then walked out and was replaced by leg-spinner Yuzvendra Chahal on the field.

The 34-year-old Dhawan had not taken the field for the entire duration of the Australian innings in the second ODI after a Pat Cummins bouncer hit him on the rib cage while batting.

Dhawan had suffered a thumb fracture during the World Cup in Australia and after returning to the side he sustained a knee injury during the Mushtaq Ali trophy, requiring 27 stitches. — PTI



Shikhar Dhawan leaves the ground after injuring his shoulder while fielding. — BCCI

Kohli 'satisfied' after defeating strong Australia

Bengaluru, Jan. 19: India captain Virat Kohli was "very satisfied" with his team's comprehensive come-from-behind series win against a formidable Australian side that had Steve Smith, David Warner and rising star Marnus Labuschagne in its ranks. "Australia were even better than last time. There's Steve (Smith), David (Warner) and Marnus (Labuschagne). A quality bowling attack, and really intense in the field too," Kohli said. — PTI

Tiwary's unbeaten ton puts Bengal on top



Kalyani (WB), Jan. 19: Former skipper Manoj Tiwary hit an unbeaten 156 and Shreevats Goswami a combative 95 as Bengal recovered from a shaky start to end the day on top of their Ranji Trophy Elite Group A match against Hyderabad at a commanding 366 for five, here on Sunday.

Desperate for an outright win to keep their qualifying hopes alive, Bengal, who chose Kalyani over Eden Gardens, found the going tough early on to be reduced to 60 for three inside 15 overs.

Opener A Raman fell for a duck in the fifth ball of the day, edged

TN's Abhinav Mukund celebrates his ton against Railways. — E.K. SANJAY

BRIEF SCORES

IN KOLKATA Bengal 366/5 in 90 overs (Manoj Tiwary (batting) 156, Shreevats Goswami 95, Anustup Majumdar 59) vs Hyderabad.

IN CHENNAI: Railways 76 in 39.1 overs (Saurabh Singh 22; R Ashwin 4/26, M Siddharth 4/32) vs Tamil Nadu 236/4 in 53 overs (Abhinav Mukund 100, Dinesh Karthik (batting) 57, L Suryaprakash 50).

AT DELHI: Vidarbha 179 in 61.5 overs (Wasim Jaffer 83, Simarjeet Singh 4/39, Ishant Sharma 3/45) vs Delhi 41/4 (Aditya Thakare 4/14).

AT MUMBAI: Uttar Pradesh 281/4 (Aksh Deep Nath 115 not out, Rinku Singh 71 not out; Royston Dias 2-48, Akash Pankar 2-67) vs Mumbai.

ing Ravi Kiran (2/47) behind the stumps after Bengal elected to bat. Skipper Abhimanyu Easwaran (12) continued his poor run while debutant Kazi Saifi, who was drafted in after his stupendous show at the U-23 level, could not convert his start to be dismissed for 27.

TAMIL NADU BUNDLE RAILWAYS OUT FOR 76

A superb performance by bowlers R. Ashwin and M. Siddharth and a ton by Abhinav Mukund gave Tamil Nadu the upper hand on the opening day of its Ranji Trophy Group B match against Railways in Chennai on Sunday.

Electing to bat, the visiting team folded for 76 in 39.1 overs as the experienced Ashwin (4/26) and left-arm spinner Siddharth (4/32) ran through the railways batting order.

At stumps, the hosts were 236 for 4.

From 15 for no loss in the 8th over, the Railways batsmen came a cropper against Ashwin and Siddharth to be bundled out in the opening session of the game.

It was a dismal display by the Railways batsmen as only three managed to reach double figures with Saurabh Singh (22) being the top-scorer.

Opener Mrunal Devdhar

(5) was the first to go, caught by Ashwin off Siddharth with the total at 15 and then the slide started. Vikranth Singh was the next to fall, caught by 'keeper Dinesh Karthik off T Natarajan one run later. Ashwin and Siddharth took seven of the next eight wickets to fall, spinning a web around the Railways batsmen.

In reply, Abhinav Mukund (100) and fellow opener L Suryaprakash (50) provided Tamil Nadu a flying start as the left-right combination pounded the Railways attack.

Mukund was in his elements and cracked boundaries on both sides of the wicket and reached the century in his 100th Ranji Trophy game. He hammered 12 fours and 3 sixes to put Tamil Nadu in control.

However, Suryaprakash and Mukund were dismissed in the space of four balls with the score at 156. Dinesh Karthik settled in nicely and was batting on a 55-ball 57 (5 fours, 2 sixes) to extend the team's advantage with the lead having swelled to 160 runs at stumps. — PTI

Jaiswal powers India to victory in opener

Bloemfontein (South Africa), Jan. 19:

Captain Priyam Garg, opener Priyanshu Jaiswal and wicketkeeper Dhruv Jurel (52 not out) struck half centuries as defending champions India beat Sri Lanka by 90 runs in the opening encounter of the ICC U-19 World Cup here on Sunday. Batting first India scored 297 for four and then bowled out Sri Lanka for 207 with spinners Siddhesh Veer and Ravi Bishnoi getting two wickets apiece.

The Indians produced a team effort after being sent in to bat with all the top and middle order batsmen making useful contributions to post a big score at the Mangaung Oval here.

Garg's 56 came from 72 balls with two boundaries while Jaiswal needed 74 deliveries for his 59 which

BRIEF SCORES

India 297/4 in 50 overs (Priyam Garg 56, Yashasvi Jaiswal 59, N. Thakur Tilak Varma 46, Dhruv Jurel 52 n.o., Ashian Daniel 1/39) bt **Sri Lanka 207 in 45.2 overs** (Nipun Dananjaya 50, Siddhesh Veer 2/34, Ravi Bishnoi 2/44).

had eight shots to the fence. Jurel hit three boundaries and one six in his 48-ball unbeaten knock. There were no big stands but steady ones that kept the momentum going. India's most consistent batsman N. Thakur Tilak Varma who hails from Hyderabad (46 off 53 balls) ran hard between the wickets adding 46 with Jaiswal before the former was dismissed. — PTI

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2020

*A little progress each day
towards your health,
adds up to a Healthy future!*

Periodic checkups can ensure
early detection and prevention
of many disorders.
And enable us to live a long
and healthy life.

TAX SAVINGS
ON HEALTH CHECKUPS

* Eligible to avail Tax benefits under Section 80D

Vijaya Health is Wealth Package
Basic (Parameters-44)

Offer Price ₹1999*
Actual Price ₹3450

**Valid till
31st March
2020**

Vijaya Health is Wealth Package
Comprehensive (Parameters-67)

Offer Price ₹4299*
Actual Price ₹7820

ADD-ONS at a Discounted Price
Add-ons can be availed only as an additional to the Health is Wealth Package

- HbA1c worth ₹550 for **₹440**
- Vitamin B12 worth ₹1200 for **₹900**
- 2D ECHO worth ₹1100 for **₹900**
- Stress TMT worth ₹1100 for **₹900**

- ESR worth ₹250 for **₹200**
- Iron Serum worth ₹400 for **₹350**
- Digital Mammography worth ₹3600 for **₹3000**

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Exceptional service, without exceptions.

* T&C apply.

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Disclaimer: Please be informed that health checks are designed to give you an overview of general health & cannot be interpreted as perfect health.