

ASTROGUIDE

Vikari: Uttarayana
Tithi: Pushya Bahula Dwadasi till 1.46 am (Wednesday)
Star: Jyeshtha till 11.44 pm
Variyam: Nil
Durmuhurtam: 9.07 am to 9.51 am; 11.10 pm to 12.01 am (Wednesday)
Rahukalam: 3 pm to 4.30 pm
HIJRI CALENDAR
Jumada al-Awwal 25, 1441 AH
PRAYERS
Fajar: 5.47 am
Zohar: 12.37 pm
Asar: 4.29 pm
Maghrib: 6.11 pm
Isha: 7.22 pm
SUNSET TODAY 6.04 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 6.49 AM
MOONRISE TOMORROW 3.31 AM
MOONSET TOMORROW 3 PM

COUNTER POINT



Now I can work on something!

₹5,100 cr granted for Rythu Bandhu

Hyderabad: The Telangana state government on Monday issued an order granting ₹5,100 crore for the Rythu Bandhu scheme. The state government has been extending financial assistance to the farmers in state at the rate of ₹5,000 for acre for kharif and rabi seasons. The government had earlier released ₹6,000 crore under the scheme for the kharif season, while the government has now issued an administrative sanction for releasing of ₹5,100 crore for the current rabi season. The official release said that financial assistant would be directly credited to the bank accounts of the farmers.

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Indian student killed in UK pub

London: Arjun Singh, 20, an Indian-origin student was killed following an assault near a pub in Nottingham, a city the Midlands region of England. Police said a 20-year-old man was arrested.

INSIDE

CITY.. PG2

Only 42 got state jobs last year, reveals RTI

NATION.. PG7

Shirdi locals 'happy', end agitation

Budget halwa



Finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman and minister of state for finance Anurag Singh Thakur and others after the Halwa ceremony marking the commencement of Budget printing process for the General Budget 2019-20, in New Delhi on Monday.

NADDA TAKES CHARGE AS NEW BJP PRESIDENT

YOJNA GUSAI | DC
NEW DELHI, JAN 20

The BJP on Monday got its 11th national president in senior leader and former Union minister J.P. Nadda whose leadership Prime Minister Narendra Modi said will give the organisation "new energy, hope, and inspiration." As the new BJP president, Mr Nadda thanked the organisation and the cadre and asserted that he "will work day and night along with all the party workers to take the party to new heights."

Congratulating Mr Nadda, the Prime Minister recalled how the BJP's foundation was built on "sangathan aur sangarsh (organisation and hardship)".

Union home minister Amit Shah greets Jagat Prakash Nadda, as the latter formally takes charge as BJP national president in New Delhi, Monday.

— PTI

19 convicted in shelter rape case

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, JAN. 20

A Delhi court on Monday convicted Brajesh Thakur and 18 others for sexual and physical assault on several girls in a Muzaffarpur shelter home. Additional sessions judge Saurabh Kulshreshtha convicted Thakur for aggravated sexual assault under POCSO Act and gangrape.

The shelter home was run by Thakur, former MLA of Bihar People's Party (BPP). The court acquitted one of the accused, who included 12 men and eight women. It fixed January 28 for arguments on quantum of sentence. The court had on March 30, 2019, framed charges against the accused, including Thakur, for offences of criminal conspiracy to commit rape and penetrative sexual assault against minors.

It had held trial for the offences of rape, sexual assault, sexual harassment, drugging of minors, criminal intimidation among other charges. Thakur and employees of his shelter home, as well as Bihar department of social welfare officials were charged with criminal conspiracy, neglect of

— PTI

Jagan declares Vizag as capital, 3C Bill in House

State officials to take Centre's permission if required

N. VAMSI SRINIVAS | DC
VIJAYAWADA, JAN. 20

Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has taken a calculated political risk by formally enacting a law establishing three capitals in the state — legislative, executive and judicial — in Amaravati, Visakhapatnam and Kurnool respectively.

Till now, the YSRC government had sought to project that certain capital functions would be decentralised and spread out. Retired bureaucrat, G.N. Rao, whose committee had recommended the decentralisation of administration, had told mediapersons that a few capital functions would only be performed from Visakhapatnam, which could not be equated with the shifting of capital.

But Chief Minister Reddy went ahead with introducing a Bill in the

■ **CHIEF MINISTER** Jagan Mohan Reddy went ahead with introducing a Bill in the State Assembly on Monday, which clearly stated that the government would have three seats of governance.

State Assembly on Monday, which clearly stated that the government would have three seats of governance. It is for the first time after the bifurcation of state that Andhra Pradesh government gave any legislative backing to the location of a capital.

Former chief minister N. Chandrababu Naidu had avoided officially notifying Amaravati as a state capital in the Assembly till he stepped down.

Significantly, the Jagan Mohan Reddy government went ahead with the Bills for new capitals as well as repealing the Capital Region Development Auth-

ority (CRDA) Act, even before the AP High Court set deadline of 2.30 pm on Monday to receive grievances from farmers ended. The matter was brought to the court's notice, but no order was passed.

The state administration, however, is divided over the procedure to be followed post enactment for locating new capitals.

"The Raj Bhavan, principal seat of executive, has to be re-located and this requires a notification from the Centre. Secondly, the Bill introduced on Monday says that relocation of the principal seat of High Court would be done in accordance with the procedure prescribed under the AP Reorganisation Act, 2014. The same procedure has to be followed for the remaining two capitals," a senior bureaucrat involved in drafting the Reorganisation Act explained.

The AP Reorganisation Act declared that Hyderabad would remain joint capital till 2024 and the Centre would initiate the process of locating a new capital for AP by appointing a committee.

Accordingly, the Sivaramakrishnan Committee was appointed but the process was abruptly ended with Mr Naidu deciding to build Amaravati as capital.

Sources in CMO, however, said adequate care was taken to avoid legal tussle. "If the procedure requires Centre's clearance, we will get it," a senior official said. Apparently to strengthen its case, the state heavily banked on recommendations of the Sivaramakrishnan Committee in building its theory for decentralisation of administration.

■ **Page 6: FM slams Naidu for bypassing panel**

SC TURNS DOWN NIRBHAYA CASE 'JUVENILE' PLEA

PARMOD KUMAR | DC
NEW DELHI, JAN. 20

The Supreme Court on Monday rejected a plea by death row convict Pawan Kumar Gupta who claimed that he was a minor when the the gang-rape and murder of a 23-year-old paramedical student occurred on December 16, 2012.

A bench of Justice R. Banumathi, Justice Ashok Bhushan and Justice A.S. Bopanna said that a plea which has been earlier given up (by Pawan) could not be resurrected. The SC noted that this was not the first time that Pawan has raised such a plea.

■ **Full report on Page 7**

Minor wife, major crime: 21-yr-old detained illegally

DURGA PRASAD SUNKU | DC
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Allegations have surfaced that the Karkhana police have kept a 21-year-old person in their custody illegally for more than four days, without sending him to judicial custody. Police have been circumventing the procedures laid down by law in producing the accused before a magistrate, family members claimed on Monday in the city.

E. Danaiah, a traumatised 45-year-old father of the accused, and a farmer by profession, who lives in Ramancha village under the Siddipet district told Deccan Chronicle, "I got to know that police took my



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■ **Page 4: Family left city as they had no money**

Perform or quit your job, Court tells GHMC chief

VUJJINI VAMSHIDHARA | DC
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Dealing with two separate public interest litigations (PILs), one complaining of the apathy of the GHMC in preventing dumping of garbage in lakes at Kukatpally, and another concerning complaint of locals of stench from the Jawaharnagar dumping yard, the High Court division bench comprising Chief Justice Raghavendra Singh Chauhan and Justice K. Lakshman on Monday expressed displeasure

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Dealing with the PIL on dumping garbage in the lake, Chief Justice Chauhan observed, "If the present trend of encroaching lakes and ponds in Telangana state continues, within 20 years from now, Hyderabad and Telangana will face the situation in Jaisalmer in Rajasthan, where an individual is given half a mug of water to take a bath."

■ **Page 3: GHMC officials told to read newspapers**

MAN VS | WILD Groups of noisy people try to take pictures, videos of animal on mobile phone

Leopard strays into city, caught, none hurt

DC CORRESPONDENT
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A strapping young male leopard strayed into the Patel Road area of Shamshabad on Sunday, but miraculously managed to stay out of trouble, despite being practically mobbed by groups of noisy people armed with mobile phones to shoot pictures and videos, pursuing the animal.

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When he first noticed it, Manne Vijay Kumar, who spotted the leopard on the terrace of his house, at first believed someone it might have been a stuffed toy. "After I woke up at around 6 am, I walked out onto the terrace and saw its tail near a satellite TV dish. I thought it was a toy and wanted to grab the tail and



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"To get a shot, our team had to go into the kitchen, which presented a proper view of its hiding place," Dr Hakeem said. As the

news of the leopard spread like wildfire, thousands of people thronged to the location to spot it. Though the Shadnagar police did manage to keep most of them at bay, many refused to heed to the police's advice and were seen scurrying between narrow lanes around Vijay Kumar's house, where the leopard was hidden, trying to catch a glimpse of it and take pictures.

■ **Page 2: Leopard taken to zoo**

■ **Page 2: JAC seeks to educate on CAA, NPR**

WEATHER

Max: 30.6°C
Min: 20.2°C
RH: 52%
Rainfall: Nil

Forecast: Cloudy sky.
Misty morning. Max/Min temp. 30/20°C

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■ NATION.. PG7
Shirdi locals 'happy', end agitation



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Xi warns virus outbreak serious



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Champion Djokovic drops set at Oz Open

TABLOID
'I had no intention of returning to films'



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■ **ADDITIONAL** Sessions judge Saurabh Kulshreshtha convicted Brajesh Thakur for aggravated sexual assault under POCSO Act and gang rape.

duty and failure to report assault on the girls. The charges also included offence of cruelty to child under their authority, punishable under the Juvenile Justice Act. The court had reserved order on September 30, 2019 after final arguments by the CBI counsel and 20 accused in the case in which former Bihar Social Welfare Minister and the then JD(U) leader Manju Verma also faced flak as allegations surfaced that Thakur had links with her husband. She had resigned from her post on August 8, 2018. The case was transferred on February 7, 2019 from a local court in Muzaffarpur in Bihar to a POCSO court at Saket district court complex in Delhi on the Supreme Court's directions. The matter had come to light after the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) submitted a report to the Bihar government on May 26, 2018, highlighting the alleged sexual abuse.

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Earning target

SCR GM Gajanan Mallya sets targets to improve non-fare revenue, advises officials to think creatively to earn more

IN BRIEF

Cops bust gang for mobile theft

Hyderabad: The SR Nagar police on Monday arrested a gang from Jharkhand for theft of mobile phones. The accused identified as S. Kumar, 19, Kishan Kumar Mondal, 21, Bhisu Kumar Mondal, 19, and a juvenile. According to the cops, their modus operandi was to create a diversion in crowded place such as vegetable markets and temple. While the public's attention was diverted, a gang member would steal mobile phones from the unsuspecting crowd. A total of 14 mobile phones were recovered

Only 43% students understand Hindi

Hyderabad: The 'Pariksha pe Charcha' by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has drawn criticism for only using Hindi as the medium. The discussion on the exam was telecasted live to all the educational institutes across the country on Monday. N. Narayana from the Centre for Educational Studies said that "There are only 43 per cent of the population which is Hindi speaking, and there are several non-hindi speaking students who are struggling to understand but they were made to sit and listen to the entire lecture. Hindi should not be imposed forcefully." It was also pointed out that when students were asking questions in English, PM answered in Hindi.

S2 HCU PROF IN TOP 20, SHOWS STUDY

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JAN. 20

Two University of Hyderabad professors scored top ranks in a study based on the scrutiny of articles in journals and book chapters across 5,484 publications (India), 6,233 (South Asia) and 34,907 (East Asia) in the fields of literature, history, language, philosophy, etc. These were indexed in the highly respected Web of Science database for the years 1989-2020.

Professor K. Narayana Chandran topped the charts in India and South Asia. He is ninth in South and East Asia (which includes China, Japan and Singapore, ranked by QS among the top research nations in the region).

Professor Pramod K. Nayar of the English department is third in India and South Asia. He is placed at 18 in South and East Asia.

Prof Appa Rao Podile, Vice Chancellor, expressing his delight at the report and the distinction of the two faculty, reiterated that this proves that research at UoH is of the very highest order. He added that such reports will enable UoH to identify its signature areas of research for strengthening under the Institution of Eminence project.

LEOPARD WAS TAKEN TO THE ZOO IN A CAGE

From Page 1

Zoo officials heaved a sigh of relief that the leopard did not attack anyone after it tried to escape. "It was fortunate that the leopard did not attack anyone after it tried to escape. The people were noisy and refusing to stay away, were ignoring all instructions," a zoo official said.

Once the darts hit the wild animal, the leopard leapt over the compound wall and ran for a little distance away, before the drugs took effect. "By then, it was drowsy. We used a long stick to prod it and make sure it was immobilised," said Dr S.A. Asadullah.

The leopard was then taken to the zoo in a transportation cage and examined for injuries.

"It was pronounced healthy. It is a strapping male. We will keep it under observation for 48 hours to ensure that the effects of the drugs wear off fully. After that, it will be taken to a forest and released into the wild," Dr Sidhanand Kukrety, director of the zoo, said.

Plans are also afoot to release other male leopard, caught in Nalgonda district six days ago, in one of the wildlife reserves in the state soon.

Only 42 got state jobs last year: RTI

Unemployed JAC says there are a total of 2.2 lakh vacancies in the state government

ADITYA CHUNDURU | DC
HYDERABAD, JAN. 20

The Telangana State Public Services Commission (TSPSC) has so far issued notifications for filling up of 36,643 vacancies in the government since July 2015. However, only 29,015 jobs have so far been allotted. The number of vacancies due to court cases or issues related to weightage of marks is 5,916. Many employee organisations, apart from political leaders, however, maintain that the number of jobs filled so far is far too small.

The Telangana Unemployed Joint Action Committee (JAC) says vacancies in government jobs are actually as high as 2.20 lakh.

An RTI filed by activist Kareem Ansari, who runs website *YouRTI.com*, sought information on the number of jobs filled since 2014, along with a year-wise breakdown.

The reply revealed that a majority of notifications were issued in 2017 and 26,443 vacancies filled.

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■ **THERE WERE** recruitments for only 4,226 vacancies in 2018, while in 2019, the number dropped to a mere 42.

■ **UNEMPLOYED JAC** state GS M. Venu said there are many issues when it comes to recruitments. He maintains that shortage of staff is clearly visible

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Kameshwar Rao, a member of Ansari's team, speculates that the drop in 2019 could be due to the back-to-back elections since late 2018. "It is likely that the elections to the Assembly, rural local bodies and Parliament could have slowed things down. We hope recruitment will be done regularly in the near future," Rao said.

Job aspirants agree over the issue of regular notifications. Naveen, one of the many aspirants for a government job, who lives near Ashoknagar cross-

roads, said, "My friends and I left our hometown in Sircilla district to prepare for the groups exams. For the last two years, our daily routine has been waiting for notifications and studying. Lack of information on notifications is nerve wracking."

Unemployed JAC state general secretary M. Venu said there are many issues when it comes to recruitments. He stated: "After formation of Telangana state in 2014, according to Srikrishna Committee, there were 1.07 lakh vacancies in government jobs. If you take into account retirements since then, the job requirement could have risen to 2.20 lakh. Thus, filling 36,000-odd vacancies is too little."

Venu maintains that shortage of staff is clearly visible across departments. "For example, there should be a mandal education officer (MEO) for each of the 589 mandals in the state. Currently, there are only 29 full-time MEOs. The rest of the mandals have in-charge MEOs. Vacancies all across the government unveil a similar story," he added.

Dropping Abide with Me upsets Christians

SANJAY SAMUEL
PAUL | DC
HYDERABAD, JAN. 20

The Christian community is upset at the recent decision of the defence ministry to delete the hymn 'Abide With Me' from the playing list of the Beating Retreat ceremony that marks the end of the Republic Day celebrations.

A centuries-old tradition, Beating Retreat marked the end of the day's fighting during battle and soldiers returning to their camps in the evening.

Bands from the three defence services and the Central Armed Police Forces perform at Vijay Chowk in Delhi to mark the end of the annual Republic Day celebrations and 'Abide with Me' has been part of their repertoire since 1950. It has been dropped from the list of 30-35 tunes played in order to accommodate more 'Indian' tunes, apparently. After 'Abide with Me', the bands play 'Sare Jahan Se Acha'. This year, the ceremony may end with 'Vande Mataram'.

'Abide With Me' is one of the best known and most frequently played hymns in church services all over India, including churches in the twin cities. Written in the 19th century by Scottish poet Henry Francis Lyte, with music by William Henry Monk, this was a favourite hymn of Mahatma Gandhi.

In 2018, the hymn was the



they add it back, I will be happy.

— **MR. CHAMPION, Renowned Pipe Organist**

As a Christian musician, the replacement of *Abide With Me* at the Beating Retreat would not only hurt the sentiments of the Christians but also lose the divine effect produced by the melodious four-part harmony of the hymn.



— **VANITA QURAISHY, Professional Organist**



and it strengthens the warrior for the fight

This government can do anything. Here mission and the ideologies are different. They are doing so many things so this is one thing to the add on list. If you go through the lyrics of this age-old christian hymn, it gives the soldiers a great solace,

— **MATHEW PETER, Businessman**

Help the Helpless, Oh abide with me, I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless... These two lines will tell you what an assuring song it is, when you are under great stress and the battle in front of you is so big. This was the favourite to the Father of the Nation as well, this deletion from the playlist of the Beating retreat will surely make us feel low.



— **A. ELIZABETH, Lecturer**

only western tune that was played by the military bands whereas last year as well as in 2017, it was one

of several western pieces played during the ceremony held annually on January 29.



Actor-turned politician Prakash Raj addresses anti-CAA protesters at Dharna Chowk on Monday.

— **GANDHI**

Confusion prevails over not providing papers for NPR

KANIZA GARARI | DC
HYDERABAD, JAN. 20

Despite the call to take a pledge against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) and the National Register of Citizens (NRC), even educated persons are in doubt and not sure if this can be complied with.

There is a lot of confusion at the ground level as educated, professionals, businessmen and those in government service are contemplating the impact of non-participation, within the confines of homes.

The biggest fear emerging is the paralysis it will lead to in terms of admission to educational institutes, business and banking transactions, travel and business prospects.

The fear playing on their minds is being isolated to small and confined groups as they find that they cannot openly speak to anyone. A senior member of the Muslim community explained, "While we have taken part in the protest and are completely against it, the reality is that it is a law. What are we to do now? What is the road further? Citizenship will be linked to our livelihood, family and our way of life. How are we to refrain despite having all the documents?"

Those who have the documents are of the opinion that they will submit as it is demand of the government. There are also doubts as to how many are offering lip service and how many will actually practice what they are saying. When it comes to the implementation stage, the compliance levels will be high, assert senior members who do not want to be quoted for fear of public anger.

"We are being told not to worry and that a large chunk of people cannot be fined. Agreed but how many can be protected. Will this protection come at a cost? These are questions which need to be answered. We need a tough stand as has been taken by the governments of Kerala and Punjab. If it comes from the state government there will be some weight to it," asserted another.

Anxiety is ripping people apart as secretly many of them have started checking, verifying and also gathering documents.

Don't give reason to crush protest: Raj

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JAN. 20

Film actor and politician Prakash Raj participated in a protest meeting against the National Register of Citizens (NRC) and Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) at Dharna Chowk on Monday. Speaking at the event, Raj slammed Prime Minister Narendra Modi and home minister Amit Shah for their conflicting statements on the NRC.

"Shah is speaking the truth when he says NRC will be implemented across the country. But Modi is lying to the people. In any case, there is very little honesty in either of these leaders," he said.

He suggested there could be a register of unemployed people instead.

The Bengaluru-based politician said the Prime Minister had no right to ask citizens for their credentials. "A man who doesn't have a certificate to prove his degree wants us to submit all our documents to him," he said.

Raj advised the protesters to maintain their non-violent approach. "The powers that be want us to get violent. They want to crush us. Don't give them the opportunity," he said. Other participants in the meeting included academic-activist P.L. Vishweshwar Rao and leaders of student unions and various universities in the city.

Prakash Raj stopped on way to protest

ATHER MOIN | DC
HYDERABAD, JAN. 20

Film actor Prakash Raj was allegedly intercepted by the police near Afzal Gunj when on his way to address agitating Unani students at Nizamia Tibbi College on Monday. However, this has not been confirmed either by the police or the students. It is learnt that he was informed by the police that permission had not been sought for his programme in the Old City. Students of Nizamia Tibbi (Unani) College have held a silent protest for 13 days now against the Union government's CAA-NPR-NRC legislation and procedures. They turn out every day after class and demonstrate silently.

Heavy police security has been deployed by the South Zone police at Unani Hospital.

Additional commissioner of police, Mirchowk, B. Anand objected to the protests. He even questioned the principal of the college Dr Ahsan Farooqui why he is allowing the students to demonstrate continuously and asked him not to allow the students to protest daily.

He threatened the students with dire consequences and asked them whether they wanted to become leaders. He said when home minister Mohammed Mahmood Ali had assured that there will be no NRC in the state, why are they protesting and not focusing on their studies.

The emotional outbursts have allowed them to vent their anger but reality of documentation is looming over them.

What is now traumatising them is that they cannot openly talk about submission out of fear that this might anger the public. This has created a vacuum in friends, social

media and family groups where many are not able to clear their doubts.

The Alliance against CAA and NRC has stated that they will assist people and that no one must submit documents. They have issued pamphlets that the new law is not binding to open bank accounts, admissions in schools and

also business practices.

The recent notification of Central Bank of India making a certificate from the National Register of Citizens as an identity proof was also strongly opposed and it was taken back as an example cited. Yet it is not convincing and many are edgy and unsure.

DUTY | FIRST

After being shot by tranquilliser dart, the leopard attacked policeman before falling asleep

Leopard attack didn't stop constable from duty

JAYENDRA
CHAITHANYA T. | DC
HYDERABAD, JAN. 20

"For a moment, I thought, I am dead. Suddenly, I realised I could save several people from its (leopard's) attack." These were the words of police constable A. Lakshmaiah, who survived a leopard attack at Shadnagar on Monday.

The 36-year-old constable was among Shadnagar police personnel who rushed to the house of Manne Vijay Kumar at Patel Road in Shadnagar, on receiving an alert that a leopard had entered the house and was resting on the terrace.

The police received the call at around 7.30 am, and a team under Shadnagar ACP V. Surender and inspector A. Sreedhar



A. Lakshmaiah

Kumar went to the house at Patel Road.

The leopard was indeed resting on the terrace of the house and, in no time, reports spread in the locality and hundreds of people climbed to their terraces

to see the leopard. When forest department officials shot tranquilliser darts at the leopard, it went wild and started pacing the terrace and then went downstairs. Lakshmaiah and another constable were busy getting the public to disperse when the leopard came suddenly from the rear

and attacked Mr Lakshmaiah.

He suffered injuries to his left forearm and shoulder. The leopard then jumped from the building and became unconscious as the drug took effect. The injured constable was provided first aid and then shifted to Apollo Hospital in the city for better treatment and was put in the Intensive Care Unit for observation.

Inspector Sreedhar Kumar, who spoke with Lakshmaiah after the attack, said, "Lakshmaiah panicked. But he was brave and did not run away as there were several people with him. The leopard clawed him on the forearm and bit him on the shoulder, just five inches above the heart. The injury is close to over one-and-a-half-inches deep. He is so lucky to have escaped the attack."

— **SREEDHAR KUMAR**
police constable

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and-a-half-inches deep. He is so lucky to have escaped the attack."

Mr Kumar said Mr Lakshmaiah constable had told him, "For a moment, I thought I am dead. Then suddenly, I realised I could save several people from its (leopard's) attack. The injuries are small and nothing will happen."

The 2009 batch police constable hails from Kucherkal in Mahbubnagar district. He lives with his wife and two children, aged 18 and 17 at Shadnagar.

The doctors at Apollo Hospital said Lakshmaiah was brought in at around 1.30 pm, with lacerations on the left forearm and shoulder caused by an attack by a leopard. He is under observation, conscious and coherent.

LEOPARDS WANDERING INTO CITY TO BECOME MORE FREQUENT: OFFICIALS

BALU PULIPAKA | DC
HYDERABAD, JAN. 20

The incident on Monday in Shadnagar where a leopard strayed into a residential area is not the first incident where a big cat came calling to the city. "It won't be the last either," according to a senior forest department official.

"Leopards do not need thick jungles to live in. The rocky areas around the city and the scrub forests offer excellent homes for these big cats. As their habitat is being encircled by development, construction and roads, you will see more of these instances," the official

said. It is not uncommon to see human animal interactions, even those involving leopards, in parts of Ranga Reddy district.

For instance, for many months last year, a couple of leopards have been roaming in the Yacharam mandal of Ranga Reddy district. Though the forest department made intensive efforts to trap it, all attempts have failed so far.

There is a good population of leopards in the scrub forests around the city. As the city engulfs their habitat, they will come into human residential areas, the official said.



BJP 'targeted'

BJP's N.V.S.S. Prabhakar says poll panel has failed to implement election code, BJP leaders targeted and no TRS leader has been booked

IN BRIEF

Youth loses job, commits suicide

Hyderabad: Depressed over losing a job at an MNC, a 27-year-old man from the city committed suicide by hanging at his house on Monday.

According to Malkajgiri police, Anil Ajay, a resident of Mirjalgauda, had a contract with an MNC at Gachibowli which expired about two months ago. Since then, he had become reclusive. On Monday, when his mother R. Swarnalatha and younger brother Anil Rohan went out, Ajay committed suicide.

Three arrested for job fraud

Hyderabad: Three persons who duped a local on the pretext of providing a job as bill collector with GHMC were arrested by LB Nagar police on Monday.

According to the police, Ajmeera Mallu, K. Bhanu Sri, G. Jyothi, collected ₹16.5 lakh from one Pulipattala Harish, 24, of Vemulakonda in Yadadri Bhongir district.

Man kills friend during party, held

Hyderabad: The police arrested a man for the murder of his friend over a petty issue during a party on Sankranti at KPHB. On the intervening night of January 15 and 16, Gantham Joseph Suman, 33, a businessman from Kukatapally, was stabbed by Akella Prashanth, 41. Suman, Prashanth and two others were celebrating Sankranti for two days. After flying kites, the group of friends partied at their friend Sriramulu's house. Prashanth picked up a quarrel with Suman and stabbed him with a kitchen knife in the chest. Suman was admitted to the hospital where he succumbed. Police said Prashanth had intentionally picked up a quarrel.

Man rapes adopted daughter, gets jail

Hyderabad: A 48-year-old man who raped and threatened to kill his adopted daughter, 13, was convicted and sentenced to five years of imprisonment by a court on Monday. On June 3, 2015, the Ghatkesar police received a complaint from a child welfare committee official that a girl who was adopted by her relatives was sexually assaulted and injured badly. The police, during inquiry, found that the girl's maternal uncle Maheshwaram Ramesh, 48, who was childless, had adopted the girl. When his wife was not at home, he raped her multiple times and threatened to kill if she revealed it to anyone. On May 30, 2015, a drunk Ramesh attempted to assault the girl when she slit her wrist.

HM BEATS UP STUDENT, BOOKED

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JAN. 20

The Saroornagar police on Monday booked the principal of the Jyotiba Phule Telangana Backward Classes Welfare Residential Educational Institute for beating an 11-year-old student.

The incident took place on January 4, when the student went out of the class to drink water. Principal Yenamandra Subramanyam, on finding him in the corridor, held him by his ear and threw him to the ground. The student started bleeding from the ear and the nurse at the residential school took him to a hospital. Police said she instructed the boy to tell the doctor that he was injured in a fight with roommates. Subramanyam also threatened the student that he would be thrown out of the school if he complained to his parents.

The boy stayed quiet. When he went home for the Sankranti vacation, his mother found the scar on the ear. When she asked him, the boy told her the whole story.

On Monday morning, his parents went to the school and questioned Subramanyam about it. The principal reportedly told the parents that they could lodge a complaint but he wouldn't care. The parents went to the Saroornagar police which booked a case against Subramanyam under the Juvenile Justice Act.

Bizman loses ₹25L in SIM swap cyber fraud

Criminals get access to victim's IDs, get new SIM

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JAN. 20

A city-based businessman became a victim of cyber fraud when the crooks siphoned off about ₹25 lakh from his bank account by swapping his SIM card. The cyber crime police traced the fraudulent transaction to Kolkata and are on the job to nab them.

A few days ago, a contractor living in Rachakonda police commissionerate limits approached his mobile operator when his SIM card suddenly became dysfunctional for a day. To his shock, he learnt that a new SIM card had been issued to someone who had provided identification proof belonging to him. The alternative number given to the company was also changed.

The businessman then contacted the bank with which he has an account to warn it not to initiate any transactions from his account, but it was too late.

About ₹25 lakh had been transferred from his account to a stranger's account. The man then lodged a complaint with the Rachakonda cyber crime police who registered a case and started investigating.

Cyber crimes ACP S. Harinath said that the identification cards of the businessman were misused by the person who siphoned off the money. "The crooks called

2 held over ₹10 cr financial fraud

DURGA PRASAD SUNKU |
DC
HYDERABAD, JAN. 20

Two fraudsters who duped hundreds of depositors to the tune of ₹10 crore under the guise of yielding huge profits were arrested by the central crime station sleuths.

The accused were identified as Faiyaz Mahmood Ansari and Hamed Ali while another accused in the case, Mohd. Jahangir, is still absconding.

According to the complainant Mohd. Jeevani Shareef, under the guise of giving huge profits, the accused made several people to deposit money with them. Falling for the

requesting activation of a new SIM card with the businessman's number as the old one was damaged, and also raised a request for changing the alternative number," he explained.

"As the fraudsters were in possession of the identification card details of the victim, including Aadhaar card, they submitted the same and got a new SIM card activated. Using these credentials, they gained access to the internet banking facility

and transferred the money. The amount was withdrawn in Kolkata," the ACP said.

How a person managed to get a new SIM card without the physical presence of the user of the mobile number is still unclear, and police officials say that the modus operandi would be unearthed after nabbing the accused.

A team of cyber crime police are working on the clues to identify and nab the accused persons, Mr Harinath added.

trap, the victims deposited money totalling over ₹10 crore in Ansari Capital Solutions and Ansari Perfumes and Cosmetics.

Subsequently, the accused went absconding and the victims lodged a complaint with the CCS police.

Investigation revealed that the two fraudsters were taking shelter in Maharashtra. Subsequently sleuths of CCS raided the residence and nabbed them. Later they were produced before Judicial Magistrate, at Bhiwandi court and obtained Transit Warrant and brought to CCS.

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A team of cyber crime police are working on the clues to identify and nab the accused persons, Mr Harinath added.

CHEAT RETURNS AFTER FIVE YEARS, NABBED

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JAN. 20

A white collar criminal who fled the country five years ago and returned to the city on Monday was nabbed by the Central Crime Station (CCS) police.

Pranav Tiwari, CEO of Waterbucks Technologies Pvt. Ltd., a software publishing company in Panjagutta, had cheated employees by not paying them salaries and not depositing their Provident Fund subscriptions and income-tax deductions. He allegedly fled with a sum of ₹3.50 crore.

"On Monday, Tiwari landed at the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport from Dubai with a Kenyan passport. Following a tip-off, he was arrested," said CCS ACP Ch. Kushalkar. After committing the fraud, Tiwari had landed up in Nairobi, Kenya, in 2016, police said.

■ The accused, who returned to the country after fleeing to Nairobi with a sum of ₹3.50 crore, was arrested after police got a tip-off.

PLAINT OVER GRAFT AGAINST MALLA REDDY

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JAN. 20

The Nampally police station received a complaint against labour minister Ch. Malla Reddy and others from Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee official spokesperson S. Rammohan Reddy.

According to the complaint, Mr Malla Reddy and his acquaintances, Marri Rajashekar Reddy and Sanjeev Reddy, were allegedly involved in illegal and corrupt practices in connection with the municipal elections.

Mr Rammohan stated in the complaint that the minister was demanding money, ranging from ₹40 lakh to ₹1 crore, from potential candidates for giving tickets on behalf of the TRS.

He claimed that he had evidence in the form of a telephone conversation between the minister and the potential candidates.

"The minister is not only liable to proceed against cheating, breach of trust and interfering with democratic process but should also be prosecuted under the Prevention of Corruption Act and Representation of People's Act," Mr Rammohan Reddy said. Nampally inspector Md Khaleel Pasha confirmed that he had received the complaint and said, "We haven't booked a case, we are waiting for a legal opinion."

GOVT INVITES CYBERSECURITY COS WITH IDEAS

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JAN. 20

The Cybersecurity Centre of Excellence (CCoE), a joint initiative of the Data Security Council of India and the Telangana state government, has invited applications from companies and start-ups in cybersecurity and data privacy domain for its upcoming incubator and accelerator centre.

The programme is expected to begin this February at the upcoming CCoE campus here in the city. Any individual or a team that has an idea or an existing solution with the potential to become a scalable business model can apply.

CCoE chief executive officer Dr Sriram Birudavolu said, "Start-ups are accepting the challenge of bringing newer ideas and scope in protecting enterprises from cyberattacks and protecting data. We would like to incubate such start-ups."

Twin offences



Citizens violate traffic guidelines as they use mobile, drive without helmet on Monday.

— P. SURENDRA

Family of detainee left city as they had no money to stay

From Page 1

The father of the 21-year-old youth illegally detained at Karkhana police left for their village as they had no money to stay in the city.

On Sunday, when this reporter contacted P. Madhukar Swamy, inspector, Karkana police, he confirmed that the accused was sent to judicial custody a day before (on Saturday itself).

However, when this reporter went to the police station the next day (on Monday) at around 1.10 pm, the accused was still in police custody. When the DC reporter asked to meet the inspector, he was directed to other police staff, because the "inspector was busy in a meeting."

When the reporter went inside a room, four

■ A PERSON who was sitting on a bench in the room waved at the reporter saying he was the accused, E. Anil. The policemen asked the reporter to leave the room.

policemen were sitting in the room.

When asked about Anil, the illegally detained accused, the policemen replied that they are not aware of the details.

Suddenly, a person who was sitting on a bench in the room waved at the reporter saying he was the accused, E. Anil. When he tried to talk to the reporter, the policemen asked the reporter to leave the room and speak to the inspector, as "he knew all the

details." This reporter took a picture of the accused at the police station while he was still in police custody as proof of the illegal detention.

Further, going into case details, Anil, a 21-year-old, had married a minor a year ago, the police officer claimed. According to the family of the accused, the girl was a major and had reportedly eloped with the accused in March last year. Later, she married him of her volition and stayed with him for nearly a year.

On the occasion of Sankranti festival, the accused, along with his wife, perhaps a minor, came to the city. Subsequently, the allegedly minor girl went to her parental home in Nacharam.

A day after, the girl's father approached the

Karkhana police, alleging that his daughter had been kidnapped, forced to marry him and had been physically abused.

During the course of time, police got to know that the girl was a minor and the marriage didn't happen as per the Hindu Act, and concluded that the alleged marriage was void.

Following this, the accused was booked under the POCSO Act, besides a rape and kidnap case.

When this reporter contacted A. Vinod Kumar, assistant commissioner of police, Mahankali police, he said, "We have arrested the accused in a rape case and sent him to judicial custody. We refrained from giving more details as the investigation is under-way."

2 GET LIFER IN 2012 MURDER CASE

Hyderabad, Jan. 20: The Nampally court has awarded life imprisonment to two of the accused in a murder case booked under Saidabad police station limits in 2012. Police said Shaik Mohd

Ghouse and Dorgal Ramesh took the help of one Shaik Esa to make their victim, Hameed Mohiuddin, 33, believe that they could detect hidden treasure by performing black magic.

100th BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE
The gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord Rom: 6-23

Mrs. Kamala Vijaya Rao
DOB: 27.9.1920 DOD: 9.7.1993

Mr. N.C. Vijaya Rao
DOB: 21.1.1920 DOD: 28.11.1998

We love and Miss you. Your sweet memories are always with us.
Inserted by: Sons - N. Michael, N. Benjamin,
Daughters - Sheela, Emily, Dr. Joyce, Son-in-law, Daughters-in-law
Grand Children & Great Grand Children.

(CA-3201)

SAD DEMISE

Dr. (Mrs.) TULASI RAMAN
Prof. of Botany (Retd.), O.U. College for Women, Koti, Hyderabad, reached her heavenly abode on **Tuesday 14-1-2020.**
SUBHASWEEKARAM on Sunday 26-1-2020 at Apt.005, Urbana Aqua, Ozone Urbana Township, Kannanagala, Devanahalli, Bengaluru (North) - 562110
Deeply mourned by Family members & Relatives.
WhatsApp/SMS: +91 81051 43636
Email: remembeer.tulasi@gmail.com

10th ANNIVERSARY

Sri S.L.N. ACHARYULU
Eminent Defence Scientist
Director, DMRL & CCR&D, DRDO
DOB: 01-07-1938 DOD: 21-01-2010
We miss your affectionate presence.
Inserted by:
Capt Sampath, Srikanth & Family

(CA-3150)

3rd DEATH ANNIVERSARY

PUSTAY GURU PRASAD
DOD: 21.01.2017
Manager (Retd.) Security Wing
Intelligence Office
Your memories are always in our hearts forever
Inserted by:
P. Prashanth, Dr. P. Avinash,
P. Anitha P. Karuna, P. Hridaya,
P. Anuraag, P. Prithveesh

TO COMMEMORATE FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY

Smt. CARINGULA NIRMALA
DOD: 21-01-2019
Your loving words kindled hopes, your selfless care healed deep wounds, your unconditional love was true bliss, you were our calm place in all the chaos. No matter where, how or what we do, you will remain in our hearts forever and ever and ever.
From:
Caringula Ram Mohan Rao (Husband),
Abhijai Santosh Caringula (Son),
Abhilekha Caringula Samala (Daughter),
Satya Samala (Son-in-law), Near & Dear

(S/1920/D01685)

In Loving Memory of

Shri Raghuveer Seth
(DOD: 11-01-2020)
Sadly missed along life's way...
Lovingly remembered every day...
No longer in our life to share
But in our hearts you're always there.
Miss you so much.
Fondly remembered by
Rita Seth, Rachana Nanda,
Sanchit Nanda, Shristee & Bhuvika

OBITUARY

Dr.S.Satya Ramya
MD Ob & Gyn.
DOB: 1.1.1984 DOD: 17.1.2020
Members of IMA North, Hyderabad
deeply condole the death
of our young member

SHRADHANJALI 3rd DEATH ANNIVERSARY

SRI VISHWANATHAM RAJESHWAR RAO
Expired on 21-01-2017
"Your vision continues to guide us. Your words continue to encourage us. Your deeds continue to inspire us. You will remain in our hearts forever. May your soul rest in peace"
Inserted by:
Sheela Rani N (Wife)
Saibaba - Vishalini - Ashrith Sai & NOONE FAMILY.
Ph: 9966099028, 7799044880

(S/1920/D01687)

8th DEATH ANNIVERSARY

NOONE ASHOK KUMAR
DOB 15-05-1954 DOD:21-01-2012
"WE ALL MISS YOU"
Inserted by:
Sheela Rani N (Wife)
Abhishek Kumar (Son), Archana (Daughter),
Saibaba - Vishalini - Ashrith Sai & NOONE FAMILY.
Ph: 9966099028, 7799044880

(S/1920/D01687)

16th ANNIVERSARY

Smt PUPPALA DEVAKI DEVI
W/o. Late Puppala Hanmanth Rao
Passed away on 21-01-2004
May her soul rest in peace
Puppala Hanmanth Rao passed on 24-01-2013
Inserted by:
PUPPALA JAGANNATHAN RAO & FAMILY
Ph: 9849610551

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints. Psalm 116:15

DODDA MARY HEMA LATHA
W/o Late Dodd Padma Rao
DOB: 04-03-1939 DOD: 20-01-2020
Funeral Mass at St. Francis De Sales Church, Shantinagar at 11.30 am on 22nd Jan. 2020 followed by burial at Mettuguda Catholic Cemetery.
With Love - Children, Grand Children & Great Grand Children
Ph: 9542913421/9030381369

(S/1920/D01688)

OBITUARY
"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." 2 Timothy 4:7

METTU ALBERT SUNIL RAJ
(Retired Pharmacist)
DOB:16.02.1959 DOD: 20.1.2020
With profound grief we inform you the home calling of Mr. Mettu Albert Sunil Raj, Funeral at Medak on Tuesday, 21 January, 2020 at 11:00 hours Resident of 6-7-59/163, Bansilal Pet, Secunderabad.
Mother, Sister, Brother-in-law, Brothers, Sisters-in-law, Wife, Children: Son, Daughter, Daughter-in-law, Son-in-law, Phone: 9704993344

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE
I'm the resurrection I'm the life, John 11:25

ROBIN SUNNY FRANCIS
DOB: 21-01-78 DOD 04-08-2018
May God restore ur life my Son.
In Tears: Mom, Dad, Sister

(S/1920/D01662)

9th ANNIVERSARY
In Loving Memory of

Dr. Mrs. MACHERLA BHAGYAVATHI
D.O.B.:21-01-2011
"Days are passing into Years We Remember you in Silent Tears"
Inserted by: Husband: Dr. Vatti Balasunder Reddy
Son's: Daughter's-in-Law
Vatti Rakesh Reddy - Kolan Swetha Reddy,
Vatti Sarath Reddy - Gopu Sushma Reddy
Grand Children: Varshitha, Manvik, Dedeepya, Hrishik

2nd DEATH ANNIVERSARY
SOUL IS ETERNAL... THERE IS NO BEGINNING & NO ENDING.

DEVDAAS VAIDHYAR
S/o. Narayana Rao
Fondly Remembered by:
Pushpalatha, Pankaj, Tanushree,
Aayush & Devansh
Ph: 7893106614, 9949132102



Influencing voters

Dr K. Laxman welcomes grant of Rythu Bandhu money for farmers, points out it was done a day before polls to garner votes

IN BRIEF

KTR boasts about TRS's agenda

Hyderabad: TRS working president and minister K.T. Rama Rao appealed to the voters to support the TRS's progressive agenda in the civic polls.

Mr Rama Rao, who is in Davos to participate in the World Economic Forum Summit, held a review with party senior leaders on municipal elections through wire.

He asked the party cadre to be alert for the next 36 hours till the end of polling. Mr Rama Rao said that the TRS had successfully taken its welfare and development programmes to the people during the campaign without focusing on the "baseless and frivolous propaganda" of the Opposition parties.

He asked the senior leaders to prepare the list of agents booth-wise, and hand it over to the party in-charges so that they can appoint the booth agents.

He said that the people always extend their support to the TRS as it has been working with a progressive agenda and hoped that people will repeat the results of the zilla parishad and mandal parishad in the urban local body polls.

SECTION 144 AT BOOTHS IN CIVIC POLLS

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JAN. 20

The election campaign ended in 120 municipalities and 9 corporations across the state on Monday. Except in Karimnagar Municipal Corporation polling will be held from 7 am to 5 pm on January 22. Polling for Karimnagar Corporation will take place on January 24.

Distribution of voter slips and printing of ballot papers in major municipalities has already been completed. Officials said that the ballot papers will be white in color. Over 44,000 staff is expected to participate in poll-related duties. Officials added that voters could download their voter slips through the MyVote app.

Face Recognition App will be used for the first time in the country in order to keep a check on fake votes. The app will be used in six wards and 10 polling centers within the municipality of Kompally.

The Election Commission has provided online postal ballot facility for election staff. January 22 was declared holiday in areas where elections are going to be held.

Cameras have been set up in each polling station to record the entire polling process and keep a check on everybody. Webcasting will be conducted to monitor the polling method.

Section 144 will be implemented around all polling stations to avoid untoward incident.

The Election Commission has ordered liquor shops and bars to be closed from 5 pm on Monday till the end of polling.

■ **ALONG WITH** face recognition app, cameras have been set up in the polling stations to keep a check on the people and the entire process of polling. Webcasting will be conducted to monitor the polling method. Apart from that, section 144 will be implemented around the polling stations to avoid untoward incident

Budget projections go for a toss in AP, TS

Telangana govt has projected ₹2,044cr revenue surplus

S.N.C.N. ACHARYULU I
DC
HYDERABAD, JAN. 20

In the current financial year the financial position in both Telugu states Telangana and Andhra Pradesh is running against budget projections. Till the end of December, both states had a revenue deficit. The Telangana state government had projected a revenue surplus of ₹2,044 crore in the Budget at the end of the financial year. Against this, the state is running a revenue deficit of ₹3,573 crore.

Andhra Pradesh projected a ₹1,773-crore revenue deficit at the end of the current financial year, but at present the figure has crossed ₹25,000 crore. Both states are facing a financial crunch and the number of pending bills is increasing. Bills worth about ₹10,000 crore have remained unpaid with each state. The TS government has directed all

■ **BOTH TELANGANA and AP are facing a financial crunch and the number of pending bills is increasing. Bills worth about ₹10,000 crore have remained unpaid with each state. The TS government has directed all departments not to take up any work unless the finance department has cleared it**

departments not to take up any work unless the finance department has cleared it.

By December, the total revenue receipts of the TS government were ₹61,862.58 crore and revenue expenditure ₹65,435.57 crore, which led to a revenue deficit of ₹3,572.99 crore. In AP, the revenue earning was ₹63,750.41 crore and revenue expenditure ₹88,891.71 crore, which led to a deficit of ₹25,141.30 crore.

Compared to AP, TS is in a better position. The TS government has

achieved 54.70 per cent revenue receipts against its Budget projection while the AP government has achieved only 35.68 per cent.

With the implementation of liquor prohibition in a phased manner by the AP government, revenue from excise has fallen drastically. The AP government projected excise revenue ₹8,518 crore in the Budget but the actual revenue was ₹3,341.15 crore (39.22 per cent) by December end. The TS government had projected ₹10,901 crore as excise revenue and it has achieved ₹7,454.47 crore (68.38 per cent).

The capital expenditure was ₹10,998.87 crore (63.67 per cent) against the TS government's budget projection. In AP the capital expenditure was ₹4,737.50 crore (14.67 per cent) against its Budget projection.

The AP government is spending more on welfare schemes than capi-

tal works. Both states are not getting tax devolutions from the Centre as projected in their budgets. Under GST, the TS government has received ₹18,218.47 crore (58.42 per cent) against its projection of ₹31,186.67 crore. The AP government has received ₹16,786.82 crore (46.01 per cent) against its budget projection of ₹36,485.62 crore under GST.

The TS budget for the current financial year is ₹1,28,330.51 crore and total expenditure by December was ₹76,434.44 crore (59.56 per cent). AP's total Budget is ₹2,12,769.33 crore and the total expenditure was ₹93,626.55 crore (44 per cent).

Only two months are left of the current financial year and to achieve the total Budget expenditure will be very difficult for both states. According to present trends, both states will have to revise their annual Budgets by cutting the totals.

AICC DEMANDS EXECUTION OF OBC QUOTA IN NLUs

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JAN. 20

All India Congress Committee national spokesperson Dr D. Sravan on Monday demanded that the OBC quota must be strictly implemented in all 23 National Law Universities (NLUs), including Hyderabad-based NALSAR, in view of the interim order given by the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) withholding admission process in NLUs for non-implementation of OBC quota.

Following a complaint lodged by Dr Sravan on May 28, 2019, the NCBC had directed the vice chancellors of all the 23 NLUs in December 2019 to appear before the commission to explain the ad hoc manner in which admissions were held.

The hearing was conducted by the NCBC in New Delhi on Monday. After hearing the matter, Commission chairman Bhagwan Lal Sahni directed all the NLUs to withhold the admission process for the year 2019-20 until the OBC quota issue gets resolved. Dr Sravan said he had got information about the implementation of the OBC quota in all the NLUs under RTI and based on the output, a comprehensive complaint was lodged.

Dr Sravan reiterated the demand that NALSAR provide 85 per cent quota for local candidates as per Article 371 (D) of the Constitution of India.

Later, speaking to media, Dr Sravan said that the NLUs were violating the law by not implementing the legally mandatory quota. He said he was confident that the intervention of the NCBC would restore the OBC quota which had been illegally removed by the universities.



MP and TPCC president N. Uttam Kumar Reddy in municipal election campaign in Nalgonda on Monday.

People won't be fooled by hollow claims: Uttam

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JAN. 20

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee president N. Uttam Kumar Reddy alleged that the TRS was distributing liquor, chicken/mutton, and cash to voters in all the 120 municipalities and nine corporations where elections are to be held on January 22. However, he said people would take all the freebies and still vote for the Congress. On Monday, the last day of campaigning for the municipal elections, Mr Reddy participated in road shows at Neredacherla, Huzurnagar and Kodad municipalities.

He said people have realised that they are being cheated by Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao, and minister K.T. Rama Rao, with their false and hollow claims of development. The Congress has exposed the "secret

understanding" between the TRS and the BJP on the issue of the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), the National Register of Citizens (NRC) and the National Population Register (NPR), he said, expressing confidence that the people will vote to defeat the TRS-BJP-MIM trio. Mr Reddy said that the Congress has a 'vision' document to develop each municipality and corporation and people will vote for his party to convert the vision into a reality.

He appealed to the people to do a reality check of the claims of the ruling party. Not a single rupee was spent for the development of Neredacherla by minister G. Jagadishwar Reddy, he claimed, but he promised that he would develop the municipality with his MP funds.

The TPCC president condemned the Chief Minister for supporting the BJP led government

at the centre on the CAA, NRC and NPR issue by not speaking out against them.

Stating that not a single Muslim should vote for the TRS in the municipal elections, Mr Reddy said while CMs of many states have openly opposed the CAA and announced that they will not implement NPR, Mr Rao has been silent on the issue.

He said that the people, especially Muslims, could force Mr Rao to pass a resolution against CAA in the Telangana Assembly by not voting for TRS in the municipal polls.

Later in the day, Mr Reddy had a live interaction with party workers through Facebook and urged them to stay cautious and alert till the counting of votes. He told them the Congress was heading for a major victory but they should stay alert to counter irregularities during the elections.

INNOVATIVE | SHOT

■ **Owaisi alleges TRS-Congress-BJP tie-up for civic polls**

Asad: It's Bharat Political Marriage Act

PILLALAMARRI
SRINIVAS I DC
ADILABAD, JAN. 20

MIM president Asaduddin Owaisi has coined the term 'Bharat Political Marriage Act' to refer to the alliance between the Nationalist Congress Party, the Congress and the Shiv Sena in Maharashtra, which formed the government after the Assembly elections.

He said opportunistic political alliances have been made in Maharashtra and all three parties are working against the MIM for their selfish

political gains. Mr Owaisi said the Congress has brought in this 'new Act' and got into a marriage with the Shiv Sena to form government. "The BJP broke its relations with the Shiv Sena by saying talaq, talaq, talaq, while the NCP has done chouthi (a marriage ritual)," he said, making a reference to the banned practice of instant triple talaq.

He said the same is in the making in the Nirmal municipal elections with the TRS, Congress, and the BJP. These unholy alliances are against MIM, to stop it from spreading its



wings, he alleged. Addressing a public meeting in Nirmal late Sunday night, Mr Owaisi said he had an audio recording. If needed, the audio will appear in the public domain, he said. The audio is supposed to be of a conversation between TRS, Congress and BJP leaders

who are discussing how to defeat the MIM in Nirmal. Mr Owaisi said, "manam manam okkati (we all are one despite affiliation to different political parties)" type politics is going on in the Nirmal elections and added that the MIM will have an impact in 30 wards.

He said the TRS, BJP and

Congress were not happy with the MIM which is spreading its wings and getting a foothold in other areas and exposing their 'money politics' in the last Assembly elections for the Nirmal Assembly seat.

He said the National Register of Citizens will become a 'financial burden' on the poor of this country and will give scope for huge corruption in getting required documents as proof.

Mr Owaisi said even rich and highly educated people don't have birth certificates which are essential to get Indian citizenship under the NRC.

Telangana must be freed from TRS, MIM: Kishan

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JAN. 20

Union minister of state for home G. Kishan Reddy said that Telangana state must be freed from the bonds of the TRS and the Majlis-e-Ittihadul Muslimeen. The state, he said, was not the property of the Owaisi family. TRS supremo and Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao was "carrying the Owaisi brothers with him," he said.

The BJP, he claimed, is not against Muslims, but is against the MIM that indulges in "atrocities." The minister was speaking while campaigning for the municipal elections in Nalgonda on Monday.

Mr Reddy alleged that the TRS and Congress were "bowing" to the MIM. He said he was confident that the TRS will lose in the 2023 parliamentary elections and the BJP will come to

power in Telangana and that "millions of Asaduddins would not be able to resist the BJP".

Mr Reddy criticised Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for "fleeing abroad" and declared that the Congress has no future in the country. As for the TRS, it has forgotten the people and Mr Chandrasekhar Rao's family has benefited, he alleged.

He accused the TRS and MIM of doing an injustice to the state. "Does it make sense when TRS makes an alliance with MIM, which creates unrest among the people of different communities," he queried.

He demanded that the TRS explain to the public why it has an alliance with the MIM and said that the people must protect Telangana from KCR and Owaisi families.

Minister K.T. Rama Rao, Mr Reddy said, was mis-

leading people about Union government funds to Telangana state, which he has done only to gain votes in the elections.

He asked Mr Rama Rao to declare how much funding the state had received from the Centre during the 10-year rule of the Congress, and then in the five-and-a-half years of National Democratic Alliance (NDA) rule at the Centre.

In neighbouring Andhra Pradesh, about three lakh houses have already been built for poor and another two lakh houses are under construction and the state is requesting another seven lakh units, he said.

But in Telangana, the two lakh houses sanctioned are lying incomplete and it has been six years and the people are still waiting for the double bedroom houses. The TRS wants to win with money, he alleged.



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ఆంధ్రభూమి వెల. **20** రూపాయలే

మానవత్వక

- ◆ కావాలనిన్నీ సీతమ్మ
- ◆ కంటికింపైన సరితాలూ
- ◆ వాహనా అనిపించే సీరియల్స్
- ◆ పదికాలాలపాటు దాచుకునే కథలూ చదవాలనుందా ?
- ◆ జనస్థాం దీక్షానికే లాంటి డోక్టర్ కార్మిక్స్
- ◆ ఇచ్చే నవ్వల పువ్వులు కోరుకుంటున్నారా ?
- ◆ ఇంకెందుకాలస్సం ?
- ◆ పీటన్నింటితో పాటుగా నెలనెలా
- ◆ ఓ మిసీ నవలని కూడా అంటించే
- ◆ ఆంధ్రభూమి మానవత్వకని
- ◆ వెంటనే కొని చదివేయండి మరి

జనవరి సంచిక మార్చెట్లో వుంది



New menace

President Ram Nath Kovind on Monday said fake news has emerged as a new menace

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SHORT TAKES

MINISTERS SKIP 7 DISTRICTS IN VALLEY

DC CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR, JAN. 20

Seven of the ten districts of the Valley are being ignored by a team of 36 Union ministers during their “extensive” tour of Jammu and Kashmir which it began at the weekend.

The authorities say that the purpose of the weeklong visit of the ministers is to “disseminate the information about the importance of the government policies with regard to overall development of the Union Territory and its people.”

However, none of these ministers would be visiting seven districts of the Valley including Kupwara, Bandipore, Budgam, Pulwama, Anantnag, Shopian and Kulgam. They would also bypass, at least, two districts of the UT's Jammu region namely Doda and Kishtwar. Jammu region too has ten districts. Srinagar, Baramulla and Ganderbal are the only three districts of the Valley being visited by Union ministers. Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, Ravi Shankar Prasad, Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’, G. Kishan Reddy and Shripad Naik between January 20 and 24.

J&K COPS ENDORSE CDS' VIEWS

DC CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR, JAN. 20

Jammu and Kashmir's police chief, Dilbag Singh, on Monday said that setting up ‘de-radicalisation’ camps in the restive region would be a good step towards reforming those local youths who have gone astray.

The idea was floated by Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat who had said that the remedy for dealing with Kashmiri children influenced by ‘radicalisation’ could be to “put them in de-radicalisation camps”.

He had said, “Radicalisation can be countered. We saw it happening in Kashmir... Today, we see that young children are also being radicalised. They need to be identified and then we need to put them in de-radicalisation camps. The Indian Army has not been using hard tactics... Pellet guns are a non-lethal practice. It is sparingly used.”

J&K director general of police when asked at a press conference here on Monday if he thought there is need of establishing de-radicalisation centres in Kashmir, said, “This is such a subject over which Pakistan and its agencies have tried a lot to radicalise youths in this area over a period of time...especially young minds have got affected (sic)”.

He said, “If any such a centre comes up in Kashmir that would be a good sign...it should happen as that would help the people especially those who have gone astray”.

G'GARH GOVERNOR STIRS ROW

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC
BHOPAL, JAN. 20

Chhattisgarh Governor Anusuya Uike on Monday stirred a political row when she suggested renaming ‘Nehru Yuva Kendra’ after Swami Vivekanand. She was addressing the district youths conference here.

Uike justified her view saying that Swami Vivekanand was an inspiration for the youths of India and hence it would be most appropriate to rename Nehru Yuva Kendra after the great spiritual leader as ‘Vivekanand Yuva Kendra’.

“Nehru was a great leader and first Prime Minister of India. But, Swami Vivekanand was the inspiration of the youths of India and hence, I would suggest that Nehru Yuva Kendra should be renamed as Vivekanand Yuva Kendra,” she said.

The ruling Congress here, however, did not take kindly to her suggestion. “There is an attempt to destroy legacy of Jawaharlal Nehru by renaming all institutions and projects named after him. But, legacy of a legend never dies,” spokesman of Congress here said.



Sukhoi-30MKI fighter aircraft squadron prepares to take off from the Thanjavur airbase during its induction ceremony into the Indian Air Force on Monday.

Very difficult to predict war with Pakistan, says Rawat

South's first BrahMos armed Sukhoi squad to guard Indian Ocean Region

G. SRINIVASAN | DC
THANJAVUR, JAN. 20

“Armed forces ought to remain prepared for any emergency like wars. But I can't predict war,” said General Bipin Rawat, Chief of Defence Staff here on Monday. He said this to press persons when asked about possibility of a war between India and Pakistan in the wake of certain developments in the recent past.

However, he said that he has confidence in our armed forces, which “remains strong”.

Taking pride in India being the third powerful nation in the world with respect to armed forces, he said that the forces are adequate with manpower

recruited. “We follow stringent rules to recruit personnel for Defence. Candidates should be patriotic and willing to work in any condition etc.,” he said.

Asked about presence of Chinese forces in the Indian Ocean and if they are a challenge to India, Rawat said, “Every country has freedom of navigation and dominate in sea areas where they are able to gain access. Any such activity in Indian Ocean should be viewed from the point of view of navigation freedom and to solve problems like pirates and problems of merchant ships, and the like.”

The Chief of Defence Staff said it was very difficult to predict if a sce-

■ **THE 'TIGERSHARKS'** 222 squadron of Sukhoi 30 MKI jets, formally inducted by Chief of Defence Staff Gen. Bipin Rawat will be tasked with the air dominance and maritime role and equipped with the air variant of the BrahMos. The squadron is based in this ancient Chola capital, about 340 kms from Chennai.

nario of a war with Pakistan would emerge or not but all the defence services were prepared to take on any challenge.

The top general, who inducted the Sukhoi-30 MKI squadron here, was responding to a question about any possibility of a

war emerging between India and Pakistan.

South India on Monday got its first squadron of Sukhoi-30 MKI fighter jets, which have been modified to carry BrahMos super-sonic cruise missiles, at the Air Force station here. The new squadron is all set to enhance the IAF's air defence capability and ensure vigil over the strategically important Indian Ocean Region.

When pointed out about shooting incidents by unmanned planes in some areas of the country, he said that they have been taken note of and systems and equipment will be evolved to face such challenges in the armed forces.

Earlier, he took part in the induction of 222

squadron, ‘Tigershark’, as part of the capabilities enhancement in Indian Ocean region at the Thanjavur Air force station.

Rawat said on the occasion that integration of weapons in armed forces is a “game changer” in the history of the forces and security of India.

“Now with the induction of the squadron, security and striking capability will be enhanced in sea and land,” he said.

Describing the induction as a historic event, he appreciated the IAF, Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd and Defence Research and Development Organisation for the induction of the squadron.

3 Hizbul Mujahideen militants killed in Valley

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC
SRINAGAR, JAN. 20

The security forces combating a three-decade old insurgency in Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday claimed that they killed a top commander of Hizbul-Mujahideen and his two associates in a gun battle in southern Shopian district.

The officials said that among the slain is a former Special Police Officer (SPO) who had decamped with seven AK assault rifles and a pistol besides cash from the residence of the then PDP lawmaker Aijaz Ahmed is Srinagar's Jawahar Nagar locality before joining the militants' ranks in 2018.

J&K's director general of police, Dilbag Singh, told

a hurriedly called press conference here that the gun fight took place after a joint team of the Army, J&K police's counterinsurgency

Special Operations Group and the Central Reserve Police Force launched a cordon-and-search operation in Wachi village of Shopian's Zainapora area on Monday morning.

He said that during the search operation, the militants holed up in the village opened fire on the security which was retaliated, leading to an encounter.

Terming the killing of the militant trio “a major success”, the police chief said that the Hizb is on the “verge of elimination” in south Kashmir.

“Monday's was one of

the most successful operations we have carried out, so far, this year. Three terrorists were killed. Their criminal and terror record is very huge. Among the slain is their commander Waseem Wani who was active since 2017 and currently holding an important position within the Hizb-ul-Mujahideen in that area,” Singh said. He said that there are as many as 19 FIRs registered against Wani for his involvement in various terror strikes including killing four civilians and an equal number of policemen.

He said, “With the elimination of this group the fear it had instilled among the people of Shopian for some time will come down.”

No Supreme Court relief for Nirbhaya convict

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, JAN. 20

The Supreme Court on Monday rejected a plea by death row convict Pawan Kumar Gupta who claimed that he was a minor when the gang-rape and murder of a 23-year-old paramedical student inside a moving bus occurred on December 16, 2012.

A bench of Justice R. Banumathi, Justice Ashok Bhushan and Justice A.S. Bopanna said that a plea which has been earlier given up (by Pawan) could not be resurrected.

It was referring to the order of the trial court, the Delhi High Court and the top court during the hearing of Pawan's plea seeking the reconsideration of May 5, 2017.

Noting that this was not the first time that Pawan Gupta has raised the plea of juvenility, the Supreme Court referred to the earlier orders passed by different courts and said said, “In our view, the learned single judge of the Delhi High Court rightly dismissed the revision petition. We do not find any ground warranting interference with the impugned order.”

The court referred to the orders passed by the Metropolitan Magistrate on January 10, 2013, March 13, 2014, judgment of the High Court and the July 9, 2018 order passed by the Supreme Court, rejecting the plea of Pawan being juvenile at the time when the horrific offence was committed.

Pawan had moved the top court against Delhi High Court verdict rejecting his plea that he was juvenile at the time the crime was committed.

Pawan Gupta had raised the issue of his being juvenile when the paramedical student was gang-raped by the four, including Mukesh, Akshay Kumar Singh and Vinay Sharma.

Appearing for Pawan Gupta, advocate A.P. Singh told the court that

■ **NIRBHAYA'S FATHER** on Monday urged the SC to frame guidelines on the number of pleas a convict can file so that women can get time-bound justice.

■ **HIS REMARKS** came after the SC rejected the plea of Pawan Gupta, one of the four death row convicts in the Nirbhaya gang rape-and-murder case, challenging a Delhi High Court order, which had dismissed his claim of being a juvenile at the time of the offence.

based on the school record Pawan was born on October 8, 1996, and was juvenile on the day the crime was committed.

Pawan had studied at Gyatri Bal Sansakar Shala in Uttar Pradesh and the school record including admission register and the certificate issued by the school show that his date of birth is October 8, 1995, Singh told the court that same was verified by Delhi Police including by the deputy commissioner of police.

He referred to three earlier judgments of the top court to back his argument that proof of an accused being a juvenile at the time of an offence was committed could be produced at any stage or point of time even after the pronouncement of verdict including plea for its reconsideration.

Appearing for Delhi police, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta while not disputing that the issue that an accused in a crime was a juvenile when an offence was committed could be raised at any time but not “repeatedly”.

He took the court through the record of the case contending that the issue Pawan was raising now has been agitated on past occasions.

The Solicitor General said that it would be travesty of justice if Pawan was allowed to raise this issue at this stage of the case.

Kurien for review of death penalty

DC CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, JAN. 20

Former Supreme Court judge Justice Kurien Joseph has reiterated the need for reviewing death penalty as punishment.

The former judge told a regional news channel that capital punishment had not resulted in decrease in the crimes for which death penalty is given. He suggested that person should be given imprisonment for the entire life instead.

According to him, the trial courts had been imposing death penalties “arbitrarily and freakishly”.

As many as 118 death penalties were imposed in a year. The jurist said that social and media trial in such cases was putting undue pressure on the judges. The main argument against capital



Kurien Joseph

punishment is that it deprives people of the opportunity to reform.

Justice Joseph had earlier also called for reviewing the need for death penalty as a punishment, especially its purpose and practice. The big question is whether as punishment death penalty has served any goal, he had said.

Those supporting death penalty have argued that criminals deserved the death that he has inflicted on the victim by committing homicide.

FAITH | MATTERS

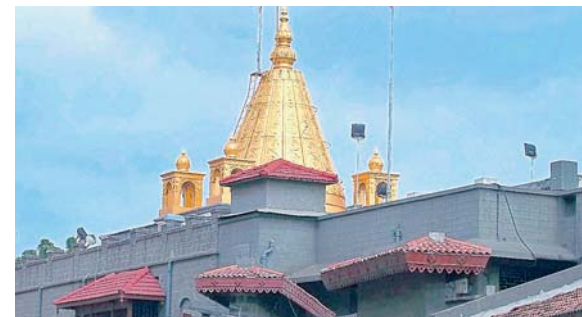
Uddhav says Pathri will be developed only as religious place

Shirdi locals ‘satisfied’, end agitation

DC CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI, JAN. 20

The dispute over the birthplace of Sai Baba has finally been resolved as Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray withdrew his statement that Pathri in Marathwada was the birthplace of the revered spiritual figure. He made it clear that Pathri would be developed only as a religious site and not as the birthplace of Sai Baba.

Following the assurance from Thackeray in a meeting held on Monday to resolve the dispute, Shirdi residents have decided not to continue their agitation. Thackeray said that



Locals of Shirdi, located 250 km away from Mumbai, observed a one-day bandh on Sunday.

the funds of ₹100 crore have been allotted for the development of Pathri, but only as a religious site.

“Why should there be a dispute over the birth-

place,” he asked.

Shri Saibaba Sansthan Trust (SSST) representative and Shiv Sena leader Kamalakar Kothe said, “Chief minister Uddhav

Thackeray has accepted our demands. Residents of Shirdi are satisfied with what he said. He has assured us that no new dispute will be created and we are ending the matter.”

Along with the CM, deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar, revenue minister Balasaheb Thorat, environment minister Aaditya Thackeray, Shiv Sena MP Sadashiv Lokhande, senior BJP MLA Radhakrishna Vikhe-Patil, SSST CEO Deepak Muglikar and delegations of Shirdi and Pathri residents attended the meeting. Vikhe-Patil said that the outcome of the meeting with the Chief

Minister was satisfactory and hence Shirdi locals had decided to call off the agitation. “The bandh was observed in Shirdi considering the emotions of Sai devotees. The state government had never taken a stand about the birthplace earlier. It should remain the same,” he said.

Lokhande said, “The CM asked the Shirdi temple representatives if they had an issue with the allocation of ₹100 crore for the development of Pathri to which they said their opposition was only to the declaration of Pathri as Sai Baba's birthplace and not for any development initiative.”



Hidden agenda

Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi chief Prakash Ambedkar says NPR is an “evil design” aimed at seeking information about caste and ideology of people

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SHORT TAKES

SC DECLINES TO STAY POLL BONDS

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, JAN. 20

The Supreme Court on Monday declined to stay the electoral bonds scheme, saying that if it did not find it necessary to stay it earlier, it would not stay it now either.

“If the matter has been argued for stay (earlier) and it was not granted, we will also not grant it now,” said Chief Justice S.A. Bobde, heading a bench comprising Justice B.R. Gavai and Justice Surya Kant as petitioner for Association for Democratic Reforms urged the court to put electoral bonds on the hold.

Having declined to stay the bonds, the court directed the listing of the matter after two weeks and asked the Centre to file its response to the plea by the NGO.

The CJT’s observation came as lawyers Prashant Bhushan and Shadan Farasat sought to impress the court to stay the scheme as new facts that have surfaced indicate that the electoral bond window was being opened often and it was advantageous to the ruling party.

Bhushan told the court that instead of opening the electoral bond scheme during general elections to Lok Sabha as was originally envisaged, it has become a mechanism to funnel the “benami” funds to fund the political parties.

Farasat said that about ₹6,000 crore were drawn through the scheme.

EXPLOSIVES FOUND AT AIRPORT

GURURAJ A PANYADI | DC
MANGALURU, JAN. 20

Panic prevailed in the coastal town of Mangaluru on Monday after a bag with explosive was found outside the Mangaluru International Airport building on Monday morning.

Though initially there was confusion over the nature of the suspicious bag, the bomb detection and disposal squad confirmed that it was an explosive and destroyed it, ensuring that the bomb did not harm anybody. This is the first time an explosive kept in a steel box inside a bag, has been found in Mangaluru, sources said.

The CISF personnel who found the bag near the ticket counter of the airport seized it and found a suspicious object in it. Senior police officials headed by Mangaluru Police Commissioner Dr P. S. Harsha then rushed to the airport.

“The CISF officials conveyed the message to the police control room and immediately, the bomb detection and disposal squad was sent who kept the object in isolation bay as per safety protocol,” the commissioner said. The bomb was later taken to the ground at Kenjar near the airport, placed in a huge pit and destroyed.

Based on CCTV footage, police suspect that a person placed the bag near ticket counter at 9.20 am and left the spot.

C’GARH NAXAL ATTACK TO BE PROBED

RABINDRA NATH
CHOUDHURY | DC
BHOPAL, JAN. 20

The Bhupesh Baghel government has ordered a probe into 2009 Madanwada Naxal ambush in Rajnandgaon district, in which 29 cops including local superintendent of police V.K. Choubey were killed by a retired judge of Allahabad High Court.

The move was aimed at ‘uncovering the conspiracy’, if any, in the incident, an officer of Chhattisgarh home department told this newspaper on Monday, requesting anonymity.

“The 2009 Madanwada Naxal ambush bears uncanny similarity to the incident of massacre of 27 Congress leaders by Maoists at Jheeram Ghati in Bastar district in April 2010 as far as security lapses in both the incidents were concerned. The judicial probe may unearth the lapses leading to the 2009 Madanwada incident,” the officer said.

On July 12, 2009, 29 security personnel including were killed in ambushes and landmine attacks by Maoists in three separate incidents.

WEST BENGAL TO PASS RESOLUTION AGAINST CAA

RAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC
KOLKATA, JAN. 20

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday declared that her government would pass a resolution against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) soon in the Assembly, as the Kerala and Punjab Assemblies have done.

Describing the National Population Register (NPR) as a “dangerous game,” she also appealed to the Centre to pass a resolution for its withdrawal.

“The NPR is a very dangerous game because it is related to the NRC and the CAA. I will request the Central government to pass a resolution to withdraw it. We have also passed a resolution against the NPR four months ago. For the CAA, we will pass a resolution in three to four days,” the Trinamul supremo said at Kolkata airport before leaving for a visit to North Bengal.

She said the states which sent their representatives to a meeting by the Union home ministry on NPR in New Delhi on January 17 got brainwashed.

“Many of them spoke differently. But I found all of them attended the meeting. I did not go. I protested alone and kept my word,” Banerjee said, while speaking at the inauguration of Uttar Bangla Utsob.

She said, “I ask all the north-eastern states ruled by the BJP and others, ruled by the rest of the Opposition parties to rethink on NPR before implementing it. All of you attended the meeting. You were convinced with nice words. Whoever wants to remain convinced by them, let him be but I will not.” According to her, several conditions related to the NRC have been set in the NPR.

“I request all the states to see the law properly before taking any decision to start the process. I also request them not to participate in the matter because the conditions are very bad. There is a column in the NPR which says, ‘give the birth certificates of your father and mother or their address’.

Though I have not gone through it, I have seen it the media,” she alleged. Banerjee claimed, “If it is not mandatory, why will it exist on paper? Those who will not provide their parents’ dates of birth they will be excluded. There is apprehension about it. I think this is a very dangerous trend. I will urge these states to see it.”



Mamata Banerjee

PRIME | OUTREACH

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, JAN. 20

Interacting with the students from schools across the country, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday told them not to get demotivated by temporary setbacks.

He suggested that they take time off from technology while at home and indulge in extra-curricular activities based on their interest, as a way to release exam-related stress.

Modi used examples from cricket, the Chandrayaan-2 mission and his own experience to reach out to students across the country



Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulates newly-elected BJP national president J.P. Nadda, after the latter was elected as the new chief of the BJP unit unopposed, at BJP headquarters in New Delhi on Monday. Veteran party leader L.K. Advani (2nd Left), defence minister Rajnath Singh (Left) and Union home minister Amit Shah (right) are also seen.

—PTI

Nadda elected unopposed

Modi recalls days when he and Nadda used to travel on a scooter

YOJNA GUSAI | DC
NEW DELHI, JAN. 20

The BJP on Monday got its 11th national president in senior leader and former Union minister J.P. Nadda, whose leadership Prime Minister Narendra Modi said will give the organisation “new energy, hope, and inspiration.”

As the new BJP president, Nadda thanked the organisation and the cadre and asserted that he “will work day and night along with all the party workers to take the party to new heights.”

Congratulating Nadda, who succeed Amit Shah during whose tenure the BJP “scaled glorious heights”, Prime Minister Modi recalled how the BJP’s foundation was built on *sangathan aur sangarsh* (organisation and hardship) and used the occasion to enthuse the party cadre and blamed the Opposition for the widespread anti-CAA protests.

Though the PM did not name anyone, he slammed the Opposition parties and the “ecosystem” supporting them and asserted that despite attempts to

“spread confusion and lies,” people’s faith in the BJP and his government have remains “unshaken.”

Modi said the Opposition’s problem is not that the BJP was making any mistake but that people continue to bless it.

“Ours is not some temporary party or political arrangement... Inspired by our ideals, we have been working for years and we will keep working in the years to come. There are some people who dislike the very principles which guide us. That is why, there are attempts to create problems. For them, the problem is that the people of India are with us. These are the same people rejected by the people of India. Those rejected by the people have limited means but one of them is to spread falsehoods. They have a full eco-system for that. BJP cadre have always drawn their strength from the people of India. We do not need to seek validation from an eco-system that will never accept us,” said Modi and added that the party will face more challenges in the coming days than what it did while in

■ **THE PM slammed the opposition parties for spreading confusion and lies, and said that his government remains unshaken despite this**

■ **AFTER BEING elected, party president J.P. Nadda said the BJP’s target will be to come to power in states where the party has not yet registered success**

the Opposition and asked BJP workers to reach out to the public more actively.

After being elected unanimously as the new BJP president, Nadda said the BJP’s target will be to come to power in the states where the party has not yet registered electoral success.

He claimed that not only is the BJP different in its principles, but the “results of those principles are different as well.”

Hundreds of BJP workers and supporters, many of whom had come from Nadda’s family home state, Himachal Pradesh, had gathered at the BJP headquarters. Many folk dancers from the hill state were also seen performing outside the party office to

congratulate the new BJP president.

Thanking the BJP leadership and the cadre for his nomination, Nadda said, “Today we are the world’s largest party that is in power in India. We have the highest number of MPs and MLAs in the country. We are not going to stop at this. There are some states left and we have set our aim there. We will make sure we reach to them as well.”

Earlier, the Prime Minister Modi recalled how he and Nadda used to travel together on scooter when Modi was in-charge of the state and described the new party president as an “old colleague.”

Modi also said that Nadda is as much from Bihar, where he was born, as he is from Himachal Pradesh, his family’s native state, and both the states are feeling proud that he is leading the BJP.

Earlier, Union home minister Amit Shah said the BJP stands apart in India because it does not function on casteism or nepotism.

“If you look at other parties, every party is family-based and is promoting

their own people. Only BJP promotes every worker based on sheer quality and love for motherland,” said Shah.

Other than Prime Minister Narendra Modi, J.P. Nadda and Amit Shah, party veterans L.K. Advani and M.M. Joshi, Union ministers Rajnath Singh, Nitin Gadkari and Thawarchand Gehlot, general secretary (organisation) B.L. Santosh, former Madhya Pradesh chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan were also present on the dais.

Former Union minister and in-charge of the organisational election process, Radha Mohan Singh was also present.

Soft-spoken, affable and low-key, the newly elected BJP president is a quintessential organisation man who is expected to consolidate the rapid gains the party has made under his predecessor Amit Shah.

He takes over at a time when the BJP is witnessing vigorous challenge from a united opposition in Assembly elections amid signs that it needs to rejig its electoral strategy following a string of losses in state polls.

MIFFED NDA ALLY S.A.D DECIDES TO GIVE DELHI POLLS A MISS

SUNIL THAPLIYAL | DC
NEW DELHI, JAN. 20

The Shiromani Akali Dal (SAD), a member of the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance at the Centre, said on Monday that owing to disagreements with the Bharatiya Janata Party over the Citizenship Amendment Act and the National Register of Citizens (NRC), they have decided not to contest the February 8 Assembly elections in Delhi.

The Akalis had contested the 2015 Delhi Assembly elections as an ally of the BJP. Of the four seats SAD contested, it won one in bypolls. The BJP won three seats in the 70-member Assembly. There are approximately 10 lakh Sikh voters in the national capital who impact the outcome in 10 Assembly seats.

The strain on the Akali-BJP ties had also increased over the use of election symbols. The BJP reportedly wanted the Akali Dal candidates to contest under its symbol — the lotus — instead of the SAD’s election symbol, weighing scales. The two parties had used the same strategy in the 2015 Delhi election when two of its four candidates contested under the lotus.

Addressing a press conference in Delhi, Manjinder Singh Sirsa, SAD’s sitting MLA from Rajouri Garden, said, “We have opted out as we refused to change our stand on including Muslims in the Citizenship Amendment Act.” The BJP had questioned SAD president Sukhbir Singh Badal’s stand on the CAA.

“We were questioned on SAD leadership’s stand on the CAA and were told at three meetings that this was not the BJP stand... The party was asked to reconsider the stand on including Muslims in the CAA.”

MP: BJP, CONG SPAR OVER ‘SLAPGATE’

DC CORRESPONDENT
BHOPAL, JAN. 20

The Sunday’s incident in which Rajgarh district collector Nidhi Nivedita was caught on camera slapping a BJP activist during a pro-CAA rally by the saffron party in Biaora town under her jurisdiction has set off war of words between ruling Congress and Opposition BJP here.

The BJP on Monday regretted the collector’s action describing it “unexpected and undesired” and accused former Chief Minister and veteran Congress leader Digvijay Singh of ‘writing the script’ of the police atrocities on BJP workers during the rally.

BJP workers were chased and canned when they were holding peaceful rally in Biaora on Sunday, state BJP vice-president Rameswar Sharma said, and alleged that the police acted according to Singh’s instructions.

BJP held the rally in Biaora defying prohibitory order under section 144 imposed in the town.

Digvijay Singh, however, praised the collector for tackling the unruly protesters bravely to maintain law and order.

“The district collector handled the situation bravely. The BJP workers behaved like goons,” Singh said in a statement issued here on Monday.

The Rajgarh district collector lost her cool and slapped a BJP worker during the rally. A video of her slapping the BJP worker has gone viral. Another district officer was also caught on the camera slapping another BJP activist during the rally. She was also seen manhandled by some BJP workers.

Kerala govt says no to NPR, agrees for census

GILVESTER ASSARY | DC
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, JAN. 20

The state cabinet on Monday decided not to implement National Population Register (NPR) in Kerala.

However, it has decided to cooperate with census operations. It will ask enumerators to exclude questions on date of birth of the respondents and details of their parents from the questionnaire. The Cabinet meeting presided over by Chief

Minister Pinarayi Vijayan decided to inform Registrar General and Census Commissioner under Union home ministry, that the government has no other option but to stay away from all activities related to NPR.

“It is the constitutional responsibility of the government to allay the fears of the people and ensure law and order. These factors have prompted the government to take the decision,” a government release on the Cabinet decision said.

The cabinet added that NPR would lead to NRC and there is a huge fear and apprehension among people.

The government cited example of Assam, where NRC created a huge problem. The state police department has warned that if the government went ahead with implementation of NPR, it would lead to law and order issues.

The collectors have also pointed out that NPR could adversely affect census operations.

Prime Minister reaches out to students through ‘Pariksha Pe Charcha’

Modi bats for a tech-free room in every house

DC CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, JAN. 20

through the third edition of the ‘Pariksha Pe Charcha’ programme at the Talkatora Stadium here.

He sought to speak to them in their own language and said his conversations with them will be “hashtag without filter”.

In the event, telecast and streamed live, Modi said everyone should keep abreast of the latest technology but stressed that it should not be allowed to govern their lives.

“Technological trends are changing quickly. It is essential to stay updated with these trends. Fear of technology is not good. Technology is a friend. Mere knowledge of tech-

nology is not enough. Its application is as important,” he said.

Modi asked students not to become slaves of technology.

“We should have the strength to keep technology under our control and ensure it does not waste our time. One room in our homes should be technology-free. Whoever enters will not carry any gadgets,” he said.

The Prime Minister appealed to students to not be demotivated if they face temporary setbacks and take failures in their stride.

“We can add enthusiasm to every aspect of life. A temporary setback does

not mean success is not waiting. In fact, a setback may mean the best is yet to come. Motivation, demotivation are very common. Everyone goes through these feelings,” he said.

As many as 2,000 students and teachers attended the event. Of these, 1,050 students were selected through an essay competition.

Students who got to ask questions to the Prime Minister were short-listed on the basis of essays submitted on five subjects — ‘Gratitude is Great’, ‘Your Future Depends on Your Aspirations’, ‘Examining Exams’, ‘Our Duties, Your Take’, and ‘Balance is Beneficial’.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaks during an interactive session — Pariksha Pe Charcha 2020 with school and college students in New Delhi on Monday.



Venezuela crisis

Venezuelan opposition leader Juan Guaido surfaces in Colombia to meet with US secretary of state Mike Pompeo

IN BRIEF

Two dead in Missouri shooting

Kansas City: Police in Kansas City, Missouri, say at least two people are dead and 15 people were reportedly injured in a shooting. The shooting took place shortly before midnight Sunday, Kansas City police said at a press conference at the scene. A police spokesman said responding officers found "a chaotic scene" and had to call in help from around the city. Two people were found dead, including a woman in the parking lot. Police believe the shooter is one of the deceased. The spokesman said the shooter opened fire on a line of people waiting to enter a bar, but the motive for the shooting wasn't immediately clear. The shooter was shot by an armed security guard, police said.

Egypt emergency extended to 3 yrs

Cairo: Egypt's state of emergency is set to reach the three-year mark by April after the government announced it would extend it by another three months from Monday next week. The North African country has been under a state of emergency since April 2017 bombings of two Coptic churches by an Islamic State group affiliate that killed more than 40 people. The extension comes nine years after the January 2011 uprising that toppled former president Hosni Mubarak, who had also ruled for decades under a state of emergency. "The president of Egypt ordered the extension of the state of emergency nationwide for three months starting Monday, January 27," said the official gazette on Sunday.

Pak activist Jalila stopped at airport

Lahore: A top Pakistani woman lawyer and human rights activist, supporting the minority Hazara community in the country, was stopped from taking a flight to the UK and detained for hours by immigration authorities at the airport here on Monday, citing her "anti-state activities". Jalila Haider, who was listed as one of the 100 most inspiring and influential women across the world by the BBC last year, was stopped by airport authorities when she was boarding a flight to the UK where she had to attend a conference on feminism organised by the University of Sussex. Haider is the founder of We The Humans - a non-profit organisation which works to lift local communities by strengthening opportunities for vulnerable women and children.

MALTESE MIN QUILTS OVER SPOUSE'S CASE

Valletta: Maltese minister Justyne Caruana resigned Monday after her husband, a former investigator into the murder of a prominent journalist, was revealed to have holidayed with the alleged mastermind behind the killing. Caruana who was appointed to the government's brand-new cabinet just last week said in her resignation letter that she was quitting despite being "totally extraneous" to the affair, the prime minister's office said in a statement. Her exit came after the *Times of Malta* said Sunday her husband, Silvio Valletta, travelled to a football match in Britain with tycoon Yorgen Fenech, who has been charged with complicity in the murder of Daphne Caruana Galizia. Caruana had sworn in on Wednesday as minister for the island of Gozo under Malta's new leader Robert Abela. She had held the same post under his predecessor, Joseph Muscat, who resigned over allegations he hampered the murder probe. Valletta was deputy police commissioner at the time of blogger Caruana Galizia's 2017 car bomb murder. She had exposed high level corruption in the island state. He suspended himself from the case in June 2018 after a court upheld a claim by the slain reporter's family that there was a conflict of interest, because of the investigator's ties to a minister in a government Caruana Galizia had frequented targeted. That ruling was appealed by the attorney general, but upheld by the country's highest court in October 2018. Valletta travelled to watch a football match at Chelsea FC's stadium in September 2018, after suspending himself from the case.

Europe row: Iran may pull out of N-deal

Iran says it will withdraw from NPT if dispute over its N-programme goes before UNSC

Tehran, Jan. 20: Iran said on Monday it will consider withdrawing from the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) if a dispute over its atomic programme goes before the UN Security Council.

Britain, France and Germany launched a process last week charging Iran with failing to observe the terms of the 2015 nuclear deal, a move that could eventually see the Security Council reimpose international sanctions on the country.

Iran has accused the three EU member states of inaction over sanctions the United States reimposed on it after unilaterally withdrawing from the landmark accord in 2018.

The European move "has no legal basis" and if they take further measures "Iran's withdrawal from the NPT will be considered," Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif

IRANIAN ARTISTS, athletes and media personalities have lent their voices to anti-government protests.

was quoted as saying by the Iranian parliament's website.

The landmark 2015 deal reached with Britain, China, France, Germany, Russia and the United States gave Iran relief from sanctions in return for curbs on its nuclear programme.

Since the US pullout, Iran has progressively rolled back its commitments to the accord — the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action — in retaliation.

It has hit out at the three European nations that remain party to the JCPOA for failing to live up to their promises to ease the impact of US sanctions on



Forough Hamidi (centre right) is embraced by a woman as she and her husband Ahmad Ahmadi (L) whose nephew died in a Ukraine airplane crash in Iran, attend a vigil for the victims of the flight at the Har El Synagogue in West Vancouver, British Columbia — AP

its oil-based economy. "If the Europeans return to the commitments, Iran will also stop reducing its commitments, but if the Europeans continue as

they have been... we have different options," said Zarif.

The foreign minister said Iran's President Hassan Rouhani had warned for-

mer EU foreign affairs chief Federica Mogherini about such consequences in three letters sent in 2018.

— AFP

Zarif skips Davos over programme changes

Tehran, Jan. 20: Iran said on Monday its foreign minister Mohammad Javad Zarif will skip this week's World Economic Forum after organisers changed the event he had been planning to take part in.

The annual summit, which kicks off in the Swiss resort of Davos on Tuesday, has been overshadowed by escalating tensions between Iran and its arch foe the United States.

Zarif had been scheduled to attend the gathering after receiving a personal invitation, his ministry said.

"They changed the original programme they had for him, the programme that had been agreed

upon, and came up with something else," said spokesman Abbas Mousavi.

"Either way, this trip unfortunately will not happen," he told a news conference in Tehran.

The annual gathering of global movers and shakers in the Swiss Alps begins on Tuesday and lasts four days.

But Zarif's absence removes any chance of a showdown with US President Donald Trump.

Tehran and Washington have been sworn enemies since the 1979 Islamic Revolution, but tensions have worsened since 2018 when the US President withdrew from the so-called Iran nuclear deal.

— AFP

NYT endorses Amy, Warren

Washington, Jan 20: The New York Times on Sunday endorsed Senators Amy Klobuchar and Elizabeth Warren for the Democratic presidential nomination, its first time choosing two candidates.

The liberal newspaper's pick comes just a few weeks before the Iowa caucuses on February 3 which officially begins the presidential primary season. *The Times* described Massachusetts senator Warren as the "radical" and Minnesota senator Klobuchar as the "realist" choice.

"An essential debate is underway between two visions that may define the future of the (Democratic) party and perhaps the nation," the editorial board wrote. "Some in the party view President Trump as an aberration and believe that a return to a more sensible America is possible. Then there are those who believe that President Trump was the product of political and economic systems so rotten that they must be replaced."

"Both the radical and the realist models warrant serious consideration,"

the board said. "That's why we're endorsing the most effective candidates for each approach. They are Elizabeth Warren and Amy Klobuchar."

Warren has consistently polled at third place, behind former vice president Joe Biden and Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders — Warren's fellow progressive. She surged during the summer but has seen her support slide since October. But *The Times* called her the new "standard-bearer for the Democratic left," praising her plans for structural and social reform.

"Ms. Warren's path to the nomination is challenging, but not hard to envision," the board said. For Klobuchar, who is more moderate, *The Times* said her "lengthy tenure in the Senate and bipartisan credentials would make her a deal maker (a real one) and unifier for the wings of the party — and perhaps the nation." "May the best woman win," *The Times* concluded.

For the first time, *The Times* detailed its decision-making process on its television show "The Weekly". — AFP

Beirut simmers



Anti-government protesters carry a victim injured by rubber bullet in Beirut, Lebanon. At least 350 people, including protesters and police, were injured as demonstrations turned violent. Citizens are protesting political paralysis that has led to a catastrophic economic downturn. The country's under-fire President Michel Aoun is set to meet on Tuesday with top security officials to discuss the violence over the weekend. — AP

Iraqi protesters ramp up pressure



Iraqis protest against government in Baghdad Monday — AP

Baghdad, Jan. 20: Thousands of Iraqi anti-government protesters grappled with security forces in a bid to shut streets across the country on Monday, a deadline they had given authorities to implement long-awaited reforms.

Rallies have rocked Iraq since October but fearing they would lose momentum amid spiralling regional tensions protesters last Monday told the government it had one week to meet their demands or they would escalate.

They have called for early elections under a new voting law, an independent prime minister to replace outgoing premier Adel

Abdel Mahdi and for all corrupt officials to be held accountable.

Late Sunday, young protesters began sealing off highways and bridges across the capital Baghdad and Iraq's south, torching tyres and setting up makeshift barricades.

They tried to do the same early Monday in the capital but security forces acted fast, with the military saying it had reopened a major Baghdad thoroughfare and arrested nine young men who had attempted to seal it off.

Ahead of Monday's deadline, protesters also sought to ramp up pressure on the government with pop-up rallies outside of their

main gathering place in Baghdad's iconic Tahrir (Liberation) Square.

Hundreds descended on nearby Tayaran Square, where they clashed with security forces who fired tear gas and live rounds to disperse them. Young men wearing helmets and gas masks to protect themselves from flying gas canisters erected barricades to try to push riot police back.

Skirmishes lasted throughout the night, wounding around 20 people including some with gunshot wounds, a medical source said. Fearing widespread rallies, provincial authorities across southern Iraq announced an official holiday on Monday. — AFP

World powers in new push for Libya peace

Berlin, Jan. 20: World powers with interests in Libya's long-running civil war agreed to respect a much-violated arms embargo, hold off on military support to the warring parties and push them to reach a full ceasefire, German and U.N. leaders said.

The agreement came after about four hours of talks at the chancellery in Berlin. German Chancellor Angela Merkel hosted leaders of 11 countries, with Libya's two main rival leaders also in the German capital but not at the main conference table.

Organizers knew that "we had to succeed in getting all the parties that connected in any way with the Libya conflict to speak with one voice ... because then the parties inside Libya will also understand that there is only a non-military way to a solution," Merkel said. "We achieved this result here."

Libya has sunk further

into chaos since the 2011 ouster and killing of its longtime dictator, Moammar Gadhafi. It is now divided into rival administrations, each backed by different nations: the UN — recognized government based in Tripoli, headed by Sarraj, and one based in the country's east, supported by Hifter's forces.

Hifter's forces have been on the offensive since April, laying siege to Tripoli in an effort to capture the capital. Hifter's forces are backed by Egypt, Russia and the United Arab Emirates, while the Tripoli government has turned to Turkey for troops and weapons.

A truce brokered earlier this month by Russia and Turkey marked the first break in fighting in months, but there have been repeated violations.

Among those who attended were Russian President Vladimir Putin, French President Emmanuel and others.

— AP



Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, third left, listens to German Chancellor Angela Merkel during the conference on Libya at the Chancellery in Berlin — AP

ROYAL | SPLIT

Prince says decision was taken with great sadness

Harry: Had no option but to step back

London, Jan. 20: Prince Harry has said he and his wife Meghan Markle had "really no other option" but to step back as senior royals after "many years of challenges", even as he expressed "great sadness" after being stripped of their royal titles. In his first personal statement on Sunday night after a formal split from the royal family was finalised by Queen Elizabeth II over the weekend, the 35-year-old Duke of Sussex said when he and his American actress wife were married they were "excited" and "hopeful". He spoke of his "great sadness" at a decision which he said was not taken lightly and that the



Britain's Prince Harry attends the UK Africa Investment Summit in London on Monday — AP

UK would always be his home even as the couple divide their time between Canada and Britain. "The decision that I have made

for my wife and I to step back, is not one I made lightly," the Prince said in a speech at a dinner event for charity Sentebale, co-

It's disappointing because she actually got every girl's dream. Every young girl wants to become a princess and she got that and now she's tossing that away, for, it looks like she's tossing that away for money

— THOMAS MARKLE
Meghan Markle's dad

founded by him in 2006 to support those affected by HIV in Lesotho and Botswana in southern Africa. "It was so many months of talks after so many years of challenges. And I know I haven't always got it right, but as far as this goes, there real-

ly was no other option. What I want to make clear is we're not walking away, and we certainly aren't walking away from you," he said. In a visibly heartfelt message, he said he wanted to share "the truth" about the revelations of the last few weeks, insisting that he was still the same old Harry they have known "but with a clearer perspective". The speech came a day after the Buckingham Palace announced that the couple will be forsaking their His and Her Royal Highness titles and no longer receive any share of the Sovereign Grant, or the UK taxpayer funding allocated to senior royals. — PTI

Millions saw the apple fall, but Newton was the one who asked why Judge a man by his questions rather than his answers

DECCAN Chronicle 21 JANUARY 2020

Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina questions CAA

Restraint marked Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's response in an interview last week to Dubai's Gulf News daily to a question on this country's Citizenship (Amendment) Act, but the fact that she chose to address the issue, rather than side-step it, points to uncertain times in our neighbourhood diplomacy. This can only affect us negatively in the wider world.

Answering questions, Ms Hasina noted that the CAA and the related NRC were an "internal" matter of India. But she wondered why India had chosen to go that route. She thought the exercise was "unnecessary" and was causing problems within India. She couldn't have put across her concerns in more tellingly. The Bangladesh leader recalled PM Narendra Modi's assurances to her that the NRC had no bearing on Bangladesh. It is now clear those assurances were not meant seriously, as the enactment of the CAA — with which the NRC (and the NPR) are intrinsically tied — shows.

Bangladesh has emerged as India's most consequential neighbour and friend in South Asia, in the economic sphere and politically. Wounding the self-pride of a regionally rising country which India helped create is a stunning own-goal. Its ripples are apt to be felt across South Asia, and are likely to embolden many of our smaller neighbours in no longer concealing their criticism of us and to more openly court China, perceiving — rightly — that India's capabilities and potential to help them, or to restrain them, had lessened. A range of New Delhi's policies over the past three years, in the economic and political arena, cannot but have created any other impression.

In Bangladesh, the CAA — and the nationwide protests against it within India already lasting more than a month — could also give leverage to the pro-Pakistan extremist and religious parties which had been pushed on the backfoot through Ms Hasina's secular policies and perceived pro-India outlook. In South Asia, can we have a hostile Bangladesh, in addition to an openly hostile Pakistan, a just about friendly Nepal, a Sri Lanka that would like others to cut India to size, an Afghanistan which has so far kept its cool on the CAA question but is known to resent the measure?

The amendment to our citizenship law, aside from making a marked departure from the basic premise of our Constitution, offers instant citizenship to non-Muslims from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan if they seek it on grounds of religious persecution in those countries.

In other words, the present establishment in New Delhi accuses those countries of practicing religious persecution of its minorities — which is a well-defined and codified concept in international protocols — without offering a shred of proof, and relying instead on stray incidents to extract propaganda mileage in the domestic sphere. Alas, the external affairs ministry has been made to play a dubious role in drumming up this aspect.

Only slightly farther afield in Asia, Malaysia's PM Mahathir Mohamed, a stalwart in his own right, has publicly criticised India on the recent developments in Kashmir and on the CAA question, pointedly noting that we had departed from our secular polity. We have sought to punish Malaysia by cutting imports from it. But whose image stands dented is clear to see. India badly needs a course-correction.

Crass opinion & Kashmiris

The Niti Aayog member V.K. Saraswat came out with a preposterous statement justifying the denial of the Internet to Kashmir and then did a typical somersault in saying he had been quoted out of context. First, a top scientist like him should know what a breach of fundamental rights it is to deprive people of the Internet. Second, would any progressive person express such a despicable opinion of the Internet, which has empowered the world in countless ways just because there are dark aspects like access to pornography to it too? It is akin to a scientist who helped develop the Prithvi pleading for the missile programme to be shut down because it also has attacking capabilities that can be misused.

The top court slated the Union government for the Internet lockdown in the Valley for months together. This was a clear breach of the rights of citizens in a modern democracy. Whatever the Centre did in the year 2020 in granting selective 2G connections to a set of sanitised sites is a cosmetic ploy to placate the court. When normal life has been disrupted and commerce thrown out of gear because of restrictions even on people's movement, the denial of the Internet is just human cruelty.

As an endorser of all government policies and programmes, retired scientists and bureaucrats may get plum assignments. What a comedown the Niti Aayog is from the Planning Commissions of old which were no rubber stamps of the Union government. They were proper forums for deep discussions on social and economic conditions and conduits of wisdom on what could be done for the public good. Filling the Niti Aayog with "yes" men has not helped this think tank module where there is less thinking and more shooting off of mouths leading to the expression of distressing opinions that does little for the government and the economy — even less for the people.

DECCAN CHRONICLE

ADITYA SINHA Editor

T. VENKATESWARLU Printer & Publisher

DECCAN CHRONICLE offices are located at:

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Aisha Khan

With onset of climate change, securing needs of people vital

The year 2020 marks the beginning of a decade witnessing the onset of many changes that will bring focus to the connection between climate change and national security. The harsh winter spell this year and the associated deaths of more than 100 people are just one of a series of events having a spillover effect on many aspects of life. Fires, floods and drought, here or in other parts of the world, are a clear indication of the scale and scope of the challenges that we face.

Climate change is a living, dynamic and evolving threat that cannot be ignored. To be effective, every development policy and political decision must factor in the science of climate change and project its cyclical, repetitive and multifaceted impacts on social and economic indicators.

So far there is no indication that global temperature increase will be contained within one degree

Celsius by 2050. The commitments made in the Paris Agreement are not legally binding; the accord, therefore, cannot be relied on as the international instrument for ensuring compliance. It appears that each country will have to deal with the climate crisis using local resources, capacities and technologies to build adaptive resilience.

The internal and external threats of climate conflicts on national security are inseparable. If left unmanaged both will create chaos and instability. Internal peace and stability depend on social harmony and economic opportunity; however, both have come under extreme stress as effects of climate change shrink the resource base against rising demand.

In Pakistan's context, a burgeoning population and widening gap in wealth distribution act as a threat multiplier.

The decrease in per capita water availability, unsuitable cropping

patterns, poor gender parity, high population growth rate and under-developed human capital make it difficult for the state to respond to the impacts of these exponential threat multipliers. Climate hot spots, drought, desertification, floods, disease, increased frequency of natural disasters and subsequent mass movement of people in search of livelihoods are already contributing to societal strife, pitting vested interest groups against each other as they compete for resources, leading to violent conflicts and lawlessness.

The perils to national security emanate from different sectors, situations and circumstances, and therefore, cannot be addressed without a holistic approach. Specific attention must be paid to game-changing elements such as foreign policy, governance model, population growth rate, gender parity and quality of human resource.

Recent political and social events in many parts of the world have shown us that exclusive narratives are gaining traction, putting countries and not humanity, first.

This poses a moral dilemma to rights-based approaches in finding fair solutions to these challenges.

On the other hand, hybrid warfare and invasion, and the proverbial destruction of perceived enemies, without engaging in direct military combat, are and will continue to be on the rise.

National security will, therefore, have to be built on the pillars of multi-disciplinary actions that take into account the significance of climate change and its impacts on socioeconomic and political developments at the global and national level.

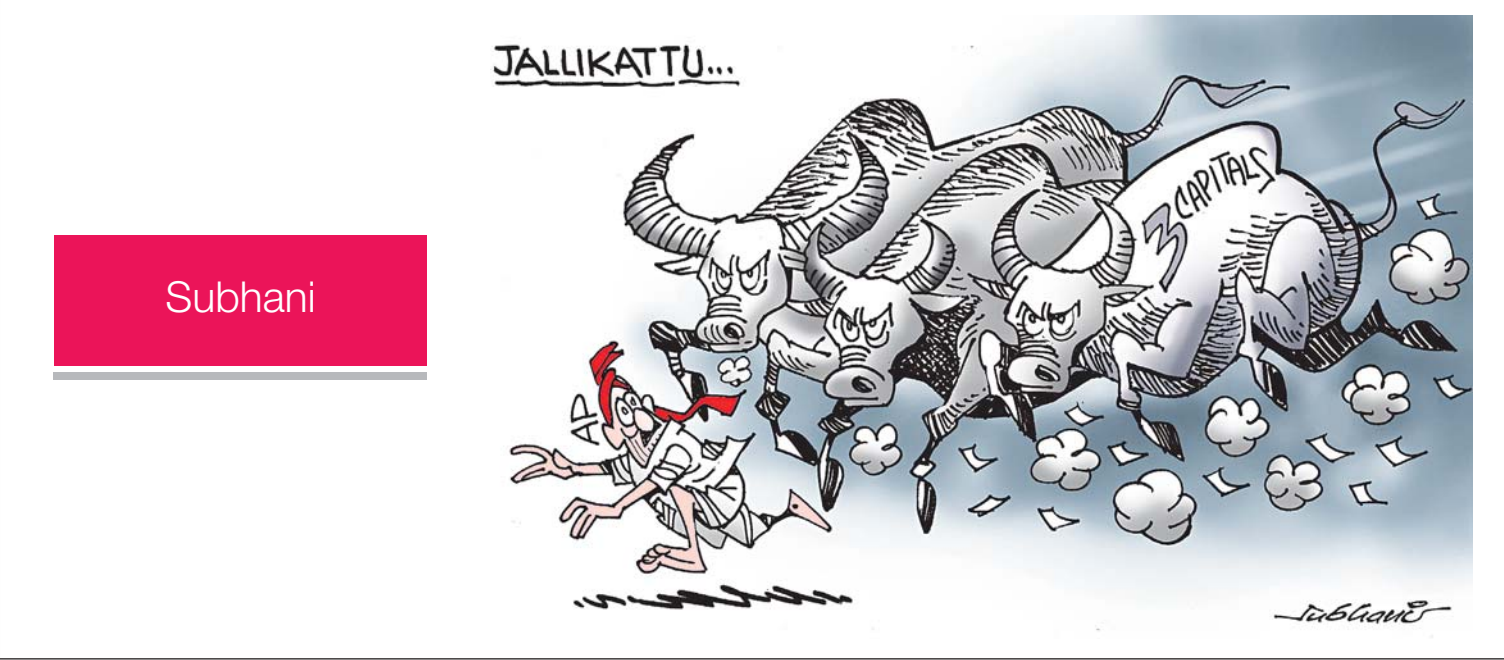
National security by definition means protecting the interests and well-being of all the people living within the geographical boundaries of a country.

However, with the rapidity and complexity of changes occurring as a result of global warming, it is no longer an option to presume that security is limited to external aggression or it is the exclusive domain of the military establishment and the law-enforcement agencies.

Harmonised societies with good governance, strong institutions and a proven track record in service delivery will be better placed to cope with the impact of climate conflicts on national security.

In the present climate and security threats posed to Pakistan, people are the first line of defence. In order to secure the interests of the nation it is vital to secure the needs of the people. An empowered, intelligent and rational populace with robust social and economic indicators is the best investment in national security.

By arrangement with Dawn



Subhani

Pluralist vs polarised grassroots democracy



Shikha Mukerjee

The politics of representation in India, at this moment, is undergoing a change. The simple idea of a dominant, almost suffocating "big" party on the one hand and a multiplicity of "smaller" parties that are almost invariably perceived in their relationship to the ruling behemoth, on the other, is definitely over.

In the present, there is what feels like a build-up of seismic pressures that will transform the familiar and so comfortable, ersatz multiparty system into one where different parties are compelled to be responsive to the mature and full political consciousness that has come out on the streets, occupying parks, roads, gateways and prominent locations to represent, above all else, themselves.

Plurality versus polarised is the emerging politics. The old politics of big fish and smaller fry, of "one fish, two fish, red fish, blue fish" is ending. In its place, "Say! What a lot of fish there are... Some are old. And some are new," with apologies to Dr Seuss, are filling the gaps that the outdated binary model never could.

From the grassroots or rather the streets, parks, prominent locations, steps and plazas, there are people and voices representing themselves, their legacies, their aspirations and so creating an insistent demand on the political establishment that implies a vast organism coming to life, fully mature in its political consciousness, even though it lacks experience and is not, as yet, stable. It has both autonomy and agency.

The time is near when earlier orthodoxies of mobilisation, for recognition of small and smaller groups by political parties or creating

new political parties to further empower and represent the heterogeneity of identities that were packaged as "diversity" will need to come to terms with the metamorphosis underway.

Citizenship as a basic identity has had the effect of bringing the politics down to earth. The politicisation of the mass, not the dispersed masses, has been abrupt and transformative. The political establishment is trying to catch up with what is happening across India, in what the Uttar Pradesh police seems to think is an insubstantial insurrection against Section 144 imposed on the Ghantaghar area in Lucknow.

The rigidities of old style alliances and coalition in which every constituent member acted and spoke in identical ways is crumbling. Even within parties, there seems to be a variety of tactical moves that are confusing when scrutinised under the old rules of political analysis. The Trinamool Congress was the first to consistently oppose and protest against the Bharatiya Janata Party and its government at the Centre's vow to unroll verification across India of the horrendously expensive and verifiably flawed National Register of Citizens process. The West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee declared that she would not allow the National Population Register process to be conducted in the state. She walked miles and miles in different parts of West Bengal to mobilise support for her position and to challenge the BJP; Amit Shah-Narendra Modi on the one hand and the

local gasconader, Dilip Ghosh, on the other.

Mamata Banerjee pointed to the link between NPR and NCR and CAA and opposed all three. She has not budged from her stand that these processes will not be allowed implementation in West Bengal.

Yet, she did not attend the all-party meeting called by Sonia Gandhi in New Delhi on January 13. Nor for that matter did the Shiv Sena, or the DMK, or BSP. Each of these parties cited different reasons for staying away. Instead of branding the absence as betrayal, the parties that did attend the meeting conceded that each of these parties was as committed to opposing the CAA-NRC-NPR as themselves. The maturing of political reaction is an intriguing change, because it implies a deeper bonding and overall confidence between Opposition, that is parties against the BJP parties and a better coordination.

Nor has Ms Banerjee passed a special resolution in the West Bengal state Assembly rejecting CAA-NRC and NPR, unlike Kerala and Punjab. Her reasons for not doing so are not clear, which has created room for speculation about her intentions, fuelled by her meeting in Kolkata with the Prime Minister during his recent visit and her earlier meetings in New Delhi with Narendra Modi and Amit Shah. Yet, the Trinamool Congress was among the first to file a petition in the Supreme Court challenging the constitutionality of CAA, describing it as: "This blatant discrimination put into legislation by the amended act is not only uncon-

tutional but also inhumane and opposed to the very idea of our nation."

The command and control style of pre-December 2019 Indian politics that was hypersensitive to tactical shifts and dodges is perceptibly changing, reshaping both the internal dynamics of parties and the external public-facing responses. Political parties are being pushed to change and adjust by the seismic pressures of peoples' protests.

These pop-up and then settled-in protests — Shaheen Bagh, Gateway of India, Park Circus, Masoor Ali Khan Park, Doranda Urs Park — are different, so different that India has never seen anything like this before. The plurality of these protests are not organised or engineered by political parties mobilising rented crowds; these are manifestations of rising seismic pressure. The full-throated slogans in women's voices — no longer subdued or modestly modulated — is also markedly different.

The future of political parties will depend on their response — dialogue rather than diatribe — to the seismic pressure on CAA-NRC-NPR or any other or many other issues that galvanise the masses to gather in protest. The unorganised mobilisations and solidarities indicate that younger people — students and the working population — are dismantling the old order of things, of parties and establishments leading and controlling the masses. The old order is being by passed by a plural and politically conscious population that is not confined to the poor, the vulnerable and the marginalised. It is a mobilisation cutting across class, caste, religion, education, privilege and location. In the crowd, it is impossible to tell who has only urban roots and who has rural roots. The usual divisions and categorisations seem to be dissolving in the celebration of plurality.

The writer is a senior journalist in Kolkata

LETTERS

WELCOME MOVE

After Kerala and Punjab, we have Rajasthan passing a resolution against the implementation of the Citizenship Amendment Act. It is a welcome move and a tight slap on the Centre which is adamant on implementing not only the CAA but also the National Register of Citizens and the National Population Register. The whole nation is united against the draconian laws. The non-BJP states should pass a resolution against the CAA to step up pressure on the Centre and the TRS to follow suit.

Mohammed Wasif Ali Secunderabad

RALLY FOR PEACE

Identity politics is best avoided. It narrows down one's vision of one's immediate community. That prevents a broad-based approach to politics. No assertion of identity should be at the cost of national unity. Raising slogans at identity rallies that smack of assertion of supremacy must be scrupulously avoided as it will prompt other communities to hold counter-rallies vitiating peace between communities. We need rallies to promote understanding and unity among communities.

K. Srinivasa Charyulu Boduppal, Hyderabad

Tension in Punjab mounting: BSF and CRP

CHANDIGARH, January 20. Mr. Gurnam Singh, Punjab Chief Minister, said here today that the induction of the Border Security Force and Central Reserve Police in Punjab created "unnecessary tension" in the State.

Talking to Pressmen here, he said, the induction of Central forces in Punjab, without the concurrence of the State Government, gave the impression to the people that the Union Government was "going to give an adverse decision to Punjab on Chandigarh.

Referring to Press reports from New Delhi quoting official sources as saying that there was no abnormal movement of the CRP and BSF in Punjab, the Chief Minister repeated that the Central forces were camping at various places, including Ram Bagh at Amritsar.

50 YEARS AGO IN DECCAN Chronicle

Internet saga and the Indian state

The last decade witnessed the government's growing distrust of its citizens and the law enforcement agencies' interest to prevent 'communication rights' of 'fake news propagating' 'doubtful citizens'.

Anivar Aravind

The last decade witnessed the growth of the Internet from communication technology to essential livelihood-enabling service, with deep integration on every aspect of life from welfare delivery to job generation. Despite technological growth and increase in internet penetration, the last decade also witnessed the Indian government's growing distrust of its citizens and the law enforcement agencies' interest to prevent 'communication rights' of 'fake news propagating' 'doubtful citizens'.

India's Internet growth is a constant theme in the last decade. Our country experienced significant year-on-year growth until last year. One such recent reports by Nielsen and Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) last year has noted that India had 451 million monthly active users as of March 31, 2019. We depend upon the Internet from banking to communication, basic necessity purchase to cloud services, important aspects of our economic, social, and cultural lives now depend upon the Internet. It transformed our lives and the way we access services & work. It opened up new sets of jobs from online media spaces to taxi aggregation to food delivery. Evolution of product and service startups and their growth in the Indian economy were largely due to open Internet & growth of connectivity and user base.

The government's attempts to address this increasingly networked society started with identification efforts to target the last mile using connectivity. Aadhaar was its tool and welfare leakage was the rationale. The state introduced connectivity and biometric authentication against Aadhaar as intermediary technologies to control access to welfare. The whole narrative was to fix the leakage to "ghosts/fakes/duplicates".

The next wave was targeting 'black money'. The narrative for demonetisation and enabling cashless economy was combined with an amendment to the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, making Aadhaar-Bank account linkage mandatory. People queued up, changed notes, provided Aadhaar details to make black money targeting easier. They queued up similarly for mobile-Aadhaar linkage for helping the state target 'terrorists'. Many more targeting followed from birth registration to income tax filing — all to prevent ghosts and fakes from looting the Indian state.

We have seen citizen movements for net neutrality and saving the Internet

from differential pricing. This resulted in the growth of Indian Internet businesses aided by a low prices to access the Internet via mobiles. This access to communication tools also helped various players, including political parties to use fake news as a tool for opinion formation among target audiences. The Indian state also used fake news such as fabricated "Aadhaar savings" as a tool for building legitimacy for the delivery of welfare services using biometric authentication. It also tried to break encrypted communication on Internet platforms, first in the name of "lynchings" and then for "traceability".

Internet shutdowns and communication blockades evolved as a method to address law enforcement agencies' fear of chaos — first under Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) and then under Temporary Suspension of Telecom Services (Public Emergency or Public Safety) Rules, 2017. The NSO Pegasus scandal revealed that possible state actors deployed snooping technologies on mobile phones of activists, lawyers, and public intellectuals involved in the Bhima Koregaon case. The Kashmir lockdown was a continuity of this state's fear and mistrust of its citizens. It is worth mentioning that the 2016 Nielson-IAMAI reports on India Internet 2019 ranked Jammu & Kashmir behind Delhi and Kerala with 49 per cent Internet penetration. The financial impact of 165+ days ongoing lockdown seems to be very high.

National Population Register (NPR) and National Register of Indian Citizens (NRIC) are the continuations of this effort of targeting population using connectivity and identifiers. The change of narrative has gradually evolved from fear of "ghosts/fakes/duplicates" to 'black money holders' to selective religious identities, 'doubtful citizens' and 'migrants'. The Anti-CAA-NRIC-NPR protests are a form of dissent by rights-aware citizens to re-engineering and re-classification of citizenship based on religious identifiers. When targeting efforts were met with unexpected protests, the mistrust of the 'database state' on citizens ended up with its default failure response: Digital India not found. December 2019 and January 2020 witnessed Internet shutdowns in 10+ states. We have seen communication shutdowns growing granularly in specific areas in Delhi and Hyderabad, and throttling Internet speeds.

The recent order restoring 'white-listed sites only' broadband and 2G postpaid Internet access in selective districts of Kashmir — after the SC verdict — needs to be considered as an evolution of India's own 'Great Firewall'. This 'white-listed sites only' access violates net neutrality and TRAI's differential pricing rules.

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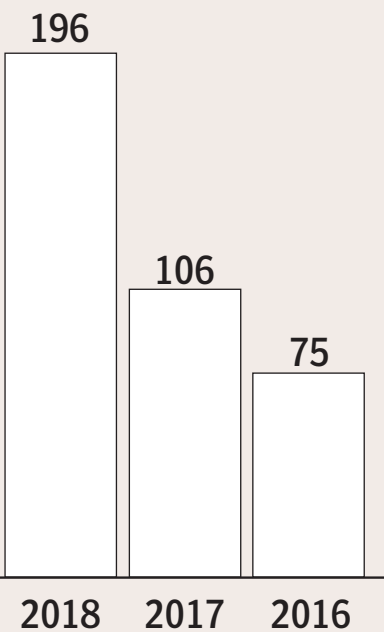
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TRACKING PHENOMENON



An initiative called internetshutdowns.in tracks the number of internet shutdowns across the country. It is run by Software Freedom Law Centre, India.

STEADY RISE IN INTERNET SHUTDOWN CASES



According to SFLCI, there have been 236 preventive shutdowns i.e. restrictions imposed in anticipation of law and order situation, and 146 'reactive' shutdowns since January 2012.

DEFINING INTERNET SHUTDOWN



Internet shutdown is an intentional disruption of Internet-based communications, rendering them inaccessible or effectively unavailable, for a specific population, location, or mode of access, often to exert control over the flow of information.

— Access Now

LONGEST PERIOD WITHOUT INTERNET

160+ days
Kashmir Valley
(August 4, 2019)

145 days
Kargil (August 4 to December 27, 2019)

133 days
Kashmir Valley
(July to Nov. 2016)

100 days
Darjeeling (June to Sept. 2017)

28 COUNTRIES AFFECTED BY SHUTDOWNS

Between January and July 2019, Access Now reports that India had **80** instances of Internet shutdowns

The second highest number of Internet shutdowns have been recorded in Kazakhstan: **Four**

ASSAM

LOCALS DECRY INTERNET BAN

MANOJ ANAND

From students to professionals, few lives were left unscathed by the nine-day-long Internet ban in Assam, which was imposed after the anti-Citizenship Amendment Act movement took a violent turn in December.

While the authorities have been maintaining that the move was carried out to check the spread of rumours and maintain law and order, citizens said lack of Internet access took a harrowing toll on their personal and professional lives.

Kabindra Kakoty, a Gauhati University graduate, had tried to apply for a competitive examination but he missed the deadline because of the shutdown. "We, the students, suffered so much during the ban," he rued.

Bhaben Kalita, an Uber driver, said he was still traumatised as his livelihood had taken a severe blow.

"I could not pay my EMI to the bank, which started threatening to take action."

Mr Kalita added that he was desperate to be party to the PILs filed in the Gauhati high court that challenged the Internet suspension, but financial constraints ruled out his involvement. "I wanted a direction from the court disallowed the imposition of such bans in the future," he said.

Many people faced difficulties in transferring money electronically. One college student said that his parents had sent him money before the ban was imposed but many of his friends were not as fortunate.

"My friends had to leave Guwahati as they almost ran out of cash and ATMs were also running dry," he said. People also had to shell out more for auto-rickshaws in the absence of cab services and many had to face challenges in submitting their reply to I-T and Goods and Services Tax-related queries.

ernment's 'Great Firewall' limiting citizen access to its own "free-basics" is an emerging threat to Internet freedom in India. The tendency of imposing full /limited shutdowns and targeting identities for claiming citizen rights are two sides of the same coin

— the Indian government's increasing distrust of its citizens.

Web inventor Tim Berners-Lee in November 2019 launched a "Contract for the Web", promising to take concrete steps to make the web a force for good. He appealed to governments to

KASHMIR

SC ORDER FAILS TO ENTHUSE

YUSUF JAMEEL

The Supreme Court's recent verdict that the access to the Internet is a fundamental right under Article 19 of the Constitution brought smiles on the faces of subscribers in Jammu and Kashmir, where the facility has been suspended for a record 24 weeks now.

But as the authorities chose to play for time the hope generated by the top court's seeking a review of the restrictive orders imposed ahead of the Centre's stripping the erstwhile state of its special status and splitting it up into two Union Territories on August 5 last year was soon belied.

The ruling termed the indefinite suspension of Internet services as "impermissible" and said that restrictions can "be temporary only". However, it fell short by not issuing an order for immediate restoration of Internet services.

Prof. Sheikh Showkat Hussain

said he was never optimistic "as the court directions are seldom respected by the authorities in J&K". Attorney and human rights activist Pervez Imroz endorsed him but added that the SC had only asked the government to review its decision and by saying that "it put the ball back in its court and gave it red herring to deny the facility to people".

Meanwhile, the Internet shutdown in the Union Territory has caused economic distress. Also adversely affected are the media and medical fraternities, students, travel organizations, trade startups, entrepreneurs, online services and others, evoking severe criticism at home and abroad.

According to Sheikh Ashique, president Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Valley's economy suffered a loss of about ₹18,000 crore in first four months of the post-August 5 restrictions and communication blockade.

(Aravind is a Bangalore-based Independent researcher looking at the intersection of technology, politics and digital rights. He tweets @anivar.)

PROTEST | POWER ■ The draconian law is being used unfailingly and rampantly to silence any kind of dissent and impose self-censorship

Section 144 of CrPC: Brutal tool has no place in democracy

Lara Jesani

With the Centre moving rapidly towards implementation of the nationwide National Register of Citizens (NRC) and our beloved country towards fools' day, and with the Supreme Court deferring the hearing on the matter, citizens have been left with little option but to communicate their dissent and democratically challenge the government policy. This has brought back into discussion an ever-burning concern for active citizenry and fulfillment of the objectives of a vibrant democracy, the constitutionally guaranteed right to democratic protest.

Under the umbrella of the Criminal Procedure Code 1973, the discouraging and gloomy cloud of Section 144, however, looms large to silence dissent and discourage democratic participation. A few days back, the Supreme Court upheld the preventive use of Section 144 when there is an apprehension of danger, subject to it being in the nature of an "emergency" and for the purpose of preventing obstruction and annoyance or injury to a person lawfully employed. It also spelt out in clear terms that Section 144 cannot be used to suppress legitimate expression of opinion or grievance or exercise of any democratic rights. In the current scenario of lockdown and clampdown, the judgment is nothing short of an achievement and a tool in the hands of protesters.

Yet, in an ideal world, the right to protest being a fundamental right, ought to be protected by the state even in situations of emergency and in removing apprehension of danger, not the right. Being a part of the fundamental rights chapter of the Indian Constitution, it is the incumbent duty of the state to ensure protection of the right to freedoms under Article 19(1)(a) and (b), and not to become its very opponents. Yet, Section 144 is the favourite tool of repression of the state, police and their allies in power: One that is unfailingly and rampantly used to silence dissent, impose self-censorship, discourage people from organising and crackdown on peaceful protesters.

In its most brutal form, it is being used daily to impose blanket bans on protest, break assemblies using undue violence and force, enforce restrictions and curfews and criminalise peaceful protesters, thereby deterring public expression. It is hence no surprise that Section 144 is a tool in the hands of the party in power. Hence, the burden of independent institutions to preserve it morally and constitutionally is even greater. Alas, Section 144 has become a ground for direct battle between the people and the police in a brute state, with the odds clearly against the people.

Several lives, too, have been sacrificed over Section 144. On a single day — May 22, 2018 — 13 peaceful protesters were publicly killed in police firing in

SECTION 144 OF CRPC

ONCE SECTION 144 OF THE CRPC IS IMPOSED IN ANY AREA:

- Civilians barred from carrying lathis, sharp-edged metallic objects or firearms in public places
- Prohibits assembly of five or more people at a place

WHO CAN ISSUE THE ORDER?

- District Magistrate (DM), a sub-divisional magistrate or any other executive magistrate on behalf of the state government

DURATION :

- Imposed for 2 months but can be withdrawn if the administration finds situation normal

- May be extended beyond two months but not exceeding six months at one stretch

REASONS FOR IMPOSING SECTION 144 OF CRPC

- Obstruction, annoyance or injury to any person lawfully employed
- Danger to human life, health or safety
- Disturbance of public tranquility or a riot or affray



Madhu Limaye v SDM (1970)

The Supreme Court upheld its constitutionality, stating that it constituted a reasonable restriction 'in the interest of public order'.

a Section 144-imposed Tuticorin district during the 100th day of anti-Sterlite protests. This brought India to the 3rd position globally on killings of environmental defenders, as per the July 2019 report of the Global Witness Monitor.

It is not surprising but shameful that Civicus Monitor has rated Indian civic space in the "Repressed" category

in its recently released report in December 2019. The claim that Section 144 is being used to prevent violence is laughable at most, with corpses of Muslim men and brutally tortured children bearing witness to the real face of Section 144 as played out by the Uttar Pradesh police. The police brutality in Uttar Pradesh, under the excuse of preventing and containing

violent protests, does not just limit itself to violence inflicted on protesters but extends to those who were not even involved in the protests.

For a tool being misused so rampantly and viciously even in cities like Delhi and Mangaluru, not a single order of restraint in the application of Section 144 and clampdown on democratic protests has been passed suo-

moto by the judiciary, which is to our dismay the only arbiter between the police and the state.

Even in a city like Mumbai, Section 144 has been repeatedly applied to curb peaceful protests every month since October 2019. On the ground that the Bombay High Court has designated Azad Maidan as the only protest site, even the better-off Mumbai Police has been denying permission for peaceful rallies in other parts of the city. It has also evicted, detained and criminalized protestors for unlawful assembly at Gateway of India, even as no reports of violence or law and order issue have been reported during the daily protests.

If what is happening in the current scenario does not shake the legislators, jurists and independent institutions to accept the reality of Section 144, nothing else can. It is a wake-up call for the entire country, which one can guess it may have also been for the Supreme Court in the Kashmir lockdown case, that people are not going to give up their right to dissent easily.

What would preserve our right to protest, however, is to do it freely, without threat or fear, with the cooperation of the state machinery and in the spirit of democracy. It is high time that Section 144 is made a thing of the past.

(A lawyer, activist, frequent protestor and believer in freedoms, Ms Jesani is an advocate at Bombay High Court.)



Luanda leaks
Africa's richest woman Isabel dos Santos accused of making her \$2.2b fortune by exploiting Angola

IN BRIEF

Nepal govt resumes search operation

Kathmandu: The Nepal government on Monday resumed the search operation for four South Korean trekkers and their three guides who went missing since an avalanche swept a popular trekking route in the mountains. The operation to rescue the seven people missing have become difficult due to heavy snowfall in the area. On Sunday, a rescue team had to abort their operation due to adverse weather. The trekkers were en route to a Himalayan mountain near a base camp in the Annapurna region when the avalanche struck after heavy snowfall on Friday last. The avalanche happened at an altitude of 3,230 m (10,600ft) about 150 km (93 miles) north-west of Kathmandu. "The government is sending a well-equipped high-tech team to rescue seven missing trekkers in the Annapurna area of Kaski district on Monday," the Department of Tourism (DoT) said in a statement.

Unhealthy levels of smog choke Thai

Bangkok: Unhealthy levels of smog have choked Bangkok for more than a week, as the Thai capital's residents fume over the ineffectiveness of government measures to combat the problem. As thick haze blanketed the city on Monday, pollution levels soared to 95 micrograms per cubic meter of PM 2.5 particle at noon in some areas, according to the government's Pollution Control Department, which described that level as very unhealthy. The maximum level considered safe by the government is 50. PM 2.5 particles are small enough to penetrate deeply into the lungs, which can cause both short-term bronchial problems as well as serious long-term health issues.

Online campaign to save African lions

Khartoum: Five sick and malnourished African lions held at a park in Sudan's capital have attracted an online campaign that's calling for their rescue. The calls grew on Sunday demanding that the lioned be moved to a better habitat. The five lions are held in cages at Khartoum's Al-Qureshi Park in an upscale district of the capital, but for weeks now they have been suffering from shortages of food and medicine. "I was shaken when I saw these lions at the park... their bones are protruding from the skin," wrote Osman Salih on Facebook as he launched an online campaign under the slogan #Sudananimalrescue. "I urge interested people and institutions to help them." Park officials and medics said the lions' conditions deteriorated over the past few weeks, with some losing almost two-thirds of their body weight. "Food is not always available, so often we buy it from our own money to feed them," Essameeldine Hajjar, a manager at Al-Qureshi park said. The park is managed by Khartoum municipality but also funded in part by private donors.

BILLIONAIRES DOUBLE IN OVER 10 YEARS

Davos, Jan. 20: The number of billionaires has doubled in the past decade and the world's 22 richest men now have more wealth than all the women in Africa, Oxfam said on Monday in an appeal to the Davos elite to get serious about inequality. "Our broken economies are lining the pockets of billionaires and big business at the expense of ordinary men and women. No wonder people are starting to question whether billionaires should even exist," Oxfam's India head Amitabh Behar said. "Women and girls are among those who benefit least from today's economic system," Behar said ahead of the annual World Economic Forum in Davos, where he will represent Oxfam. There will be at least 119 billionaires worth about \$500 billion attending Davos this year, Bloomberg reported, with the highest contingents coming from the United States, India and Russia. "The very top of the economic pyramid sees trillions of dollars of wealth in the hands of a very small group of people, predominantly men," the Oxfam report said. "Their wealth is already extreme, and our broken economy concentrates more and more wealth into these few hands," it said. The report said women and girls put in 12.5 billion hours of unpaid care work each and every day, estimated to be worth at least \$10.8 trillion a year.

Xi: Virus outbreak extremely serious

Prez calls for 'every possible measure' to combat virus that has infected over 200 people

Beijing, Jan. 20: Chinese President Xi Jinping said Monday that it's "extremely crucial" to take every possible measure to combat a new coronavirus that has infected more than 200 people in the country. His remarks, cited by state broadcaster CCTV, came the same day that the country reported a sharp rise in the number of people infected by the novel form of viral pneumonia, including the first cases in the capital. "The recent outbreak of novel coronavirus pneumonia in Wuhan and other places must be taken seriously," Xi said, according to CCTV. "Party committees, governments and relevant departments at all levels should put people's lives and health first." Health authorities in the central city of Wuhan, where the viral pneumonia appears to have origi-

THE MYSTERIOUS SARS-like virus has killed a third person, spread around China and reached a third Asian country, authorities said on Monday, fuelling fears of a major outbreak as millions begin travelling for the Lunar New Year in humanity's biggest migration.

nated, said an additional 136 cases have been confirmed in the city, which now has a total of 198 infected patients. As of the weekend, a third patient had died, bringing the death toll to three. Five individuals in Beijing and 14 in southern China's Guangdong have also been diagnosed with the new coronavirus, state



Travellers wear face masks as they walk outside the Beijing Railway Station in Beijing on Monday.

broadcaster CCTV reported Monday evening. A total of seven suspected cases have been found in other parts of the country, including in Sichuan and Yunnan provinces in the southwest and in Shanghai. The outbreak has put

other countries on alert as millions of Chinese travel for Lunar New Year. Authorities in Thailand and in Japan have already identified at least three cases, all involving recent travel from China. South Korea reported its first case Monday, when a

35-year-old Chinese woman from Wuhan tested positive for the new coronavirus one day after arriving at Seoul's Incheon airport. The woman has been isolated at a state-run hospital in Incheon city, just west of Seoul, the Korea Centers for Disease

Control and Prevention said in a statement. At least a half-dozen countries in Asia and three US airports have started screening incoming airline passengers from central China. Videos posted online show people in protective suits checking one-by-one the temperatures of plane passengers arriving in Macao from Wuhan. A man surnamed Yang who works for the Macao Health Bureau confirmed over the phone that such checks are taking place in the southern Chinese region. Many of the initial cases of the coronavirus were linked to a seafood market in Wuhan, which was closed as authorities investigated. China's National Health Commission said experts have judged the current outbreak to be "preventable and controllable." — AP

CHINA PLANS TO BAN SINGLE-USE PLASTIC BY 2022

Beijing: China will ban plastic bags in major cities and single-use straws from restaurants by the end of this year in a bid to cut down on waste. The country is one of the world's biggest users of plastic, and the plan targets a 30 percent reduction in disposable plastic utensils used by the takeaway food industry in major cities within five years. In a document, the National Development and Reform Commission and the Ministry of Ecology and Environment said the production and sale of disposable polystyrene and plastic tableware will be banned by the end of the year. — AFP

Davos bolsters security steps

Davos, Jan. 20: Hundreds of disgruntled protesters against the elite World Economic Forum are marching through the Alpine snows toward its annual gathering in Davos, as officials on Monday detailed extra security measures like vehicle checks and webcam shutdowns with US President Donald Trump and other notables set to arrive. Zurich regional police said some 130 attendees who are "protected under international law" - including royalty, presidents and prime ministers - were expected to pass through toward the Davos gathering from Tuesday to Friday. All told, nearly 3,000 leaders from civil society, business, politics and elsewhere from 118 countries are expected as the Forum marks its 50th year. Protesters with the

"Strike-WEF" collective, who began marching toward Davos on Sunday, have taken issue with one security measure: An order from regional police that no more than 300 people can attend a planned protest near the town hall. Authorities insist the square is too small to hold more people. They call such limits anti-democratic. "When they can have space for 3,000 people - the majority of who are the richest people on the planet - but for only 300 among the 99 per cent of the rest of us, it's a joke," said Payal Parekh, a spokeswoman for the collective. Members of the group and its supporters - some dressed in get-ups like Ronald McDonald outfits - were marching toward Davos but have been barred from the main roads to get there. — AP

Night train sets off for Brussels

Vienna, Jan. 20: The first night train to set off for Belgium in 16 years departed from Vienna Sunday, carrying Austrian and European politicians who hope the new route can set an example as the continent tries to meet its climate targets. The carriages of the 'OBB Nightjet' pulled out of Vienna's main station punctually at 8:38 pm to the strains of a live band playing the EU anthem *Ode to Joy*, the slogan #loveyourplanet emblazoned along their sides. Scheduled to arrive in Brussels at 10:55 am on Monday, the rail journey emits less than a tenth of the CO2 per passenger than the equivalent flight. Austrian state railway company OeBB has for several years been a pioneer in the revival of night trains, and OeBB board chairman Andreas Matthea said he was "proud" of the new route. Joining a clutch of

Austrian MEPs was Martin Selmayr, previously the powerful chief of staff to European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker and now the EU's representative in Vienna. For British holidaymaker Daniel, 35, the train was the clear choice - not for environmental reasons but for comfort. "No airport routine, it's nice and easy... it's relaxing," he said. Liesbet Vandebroek, who lives in Austria but works for the tourism authority of Belgium's Flanders region, said it was important for her to make the frequent journey to Brussels with "as small a footprint as possible" but also waxed lyrical about the romance of the night train. "As a student I travelled everywhere with the night train, it's so leisurely... and very nostalgic," said Vandebroek. — AFP



A dust cloud billows over a street in Dubbo, Australia. Wind gusts of 107 km/hour were recorded as the dust storm descended on the town — AP

Dust storms batter Oz bushfires

Sydney, Jan. 20: Thunderstorms and giant hail battered parts of Australia's east coast on Monday after "apocalyptic" dust storms swept across drought-stricken areas, as extreme weather patterns collided in the bushfire-fatigued country. Australia has since October been overwhelmed by an unprecedented bushfire season made worse by climate change. Swathes of the country have burned, hundreds of millions of animals have died, more than 2,000 homes have been destroyed and at least 29 lives have been lost. Violent hail storms pelted the capital Canberra on Monday, with footage showing the storm ripping branches off trees. Emergency services were warning people there to "move cars undercover

VIOLENT HAIL storms pelted the capital Canberra on Monday, with footage showing the storm ripping branches off trees. Emergency services were warning people there to move cars undercover and away from trees and power lines.

and away from trees and power lines". The bureau of meteorology told people in the southeast of New South Wales, including Sydney, to brace for the approaching storm. "Severe thunderstorms are likely to produce damaging, locally destructive winds, large, possibly giant hailstones and heavy

rainfall that may lead to flash flooding in the warning area over the next several hours," the bureau said. Two people visiting the popular tourist destination the Blue Mountains were taken to hospital when a 16-year-old boy was hit by lightning and a 24-year-old man suffered injuries while leaning on a nearby metal railing. "These people are extremely lucky to be alive," Ambulance New South Wales duty manager Greg Marshall said in a statement. "One centimetre either way and they would have faced a direct hit which could've been fatal." They both remain in hospital in a stable condition. Dramatic images captured over the weekend from western New South Wales show a massive wall of dust rolling through outback towns. — AFP

Australian platypus under threat from climate change

Melbourne, Jan. 20: Australia's devastating drought, and other effects of climate change are pushing the iconic duck-billed platypus, a globally unique mammal, towards extinction, a study published on Monday warned. Platypuses were once considered widespread across the eastern Australian mainland and Tasmania, although not a lot is known about their distribution or abundance because of the species' secretive and nocturnal nature, according to the researchers from the University of New South Wales (UNSW) in Australia. Researchers, who for the first time examined the risks of



Australian platypus

extinction for this intriguing animal, call for action to minimise the risk of the platypus vanishing due to habitat destruction, dams and weirs. The study, published in the journal *Biological Conservation*, examined the potentially devastating combination of threats to platypus populations.

Restrictions on evacuees as Philippines volcano 'recharges'

Tanauan (Philippines), Jan. 20 : Philippine authorities ordered a crackdown on Monday on evacuees' daily visits to their homes in the danger zone around Taal volcano as scientists warned it could be "recharging" for a more powerful explosion. More than 1,10,000 people have taken refuge in evacuation centres since Taal burst to life a week ago, but many hard-hit towns have let residents back for hours each day to fetch items, feed livestock and clean up their houses. "We are directing



A woman walks along a park covered in volcanic ash at a town near Taal volcano in Tagaytay — AP

DRRMCs (civil defence officers)... not to allow anyone to enter the danger zone," said Epimaco Densing, undersecretary for the department of interior. — AFP

NEW INITIATIVE

150 containers of plastic waste sent to 13 countries

Won't be world's waste bin: Malaysia

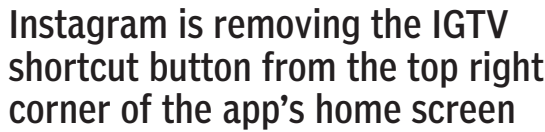
Penang Malaysia, Jan. 20: Malaysia has sent back 150 containers of plastic waste to 13 mainly rich countries since the third quarter last year, with the environment minister warning on Monday that those who want to make the country a rubbish bin of the world can "dream on". Shipments of unwanted rubbish have been rerouted to Southeast Asia since China banned the import of plastic waste in 2018, but Malaysia and other

developing countries are fighting back. Environment Minister Yeo Bee Yin said another 110 containers are expected to be sent back by the middle of this year. Yeo said the successful repatriation of a total 3,737 metric tonnes (4,120 US tons) of waste followed strict enforcement at key Malaysian ports to block smuggling of waste and shuttering more than 200 illegal plastic recycling factories. Of the 150 containers, 43

were returned to France, 42 to the United Kingdom, 17 to the United States, 11 to Canada, 10 to Spain and the rest to Hong Kong, Japan, Singapore, China, Portugal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Lithuania, her ministry said. She said the Malaysian government didn't pay a single cent, with the costs of sending back the waste fully borne by the shipping liners and companies responsible for importing and exporting the waste. — AP



Malaysia's Environment Minister Yeo Bee Yin inspects a container with plastic waste at a port in Butterworth, Malaysia on Monday — AP



AMAZON INDIA TO INCLUDE 10K EVs BY 2025

— *PTI*

AI CAN NOW RECOGNISE YOUR DANCING GAIT

France hopes to put an end to digital tax spat

EU READY TO ACT ON DIGITAL TAX: EU INDUSTRIES CHIEF

— *Agencies*

HOW TO LOCK DOWN YOUR ONLINE SECURITY

PASSWORD

REUSE PASSWORD

- While stronger passwords are harder to remember, it is an unforgivable if you're using the same password for multiple accounts.

DON'T BUNCH UP YOUR SPECIAL CHARACTERS

■ Many password input fields now require you to use a combination of upper case and lower case letters, numbers, and symbols. That's fine! Just keep them separated.

PRIVACY? IT'S A RELIC

■ Hoan Ton-That invented a tool that could end your ability to walk down the street anonymously and provided it to hundreds of law enforcement agencies.

■ His tiny company, Clearview AI, devised a groundbreaking facial recognition app. You take a picture of a person, upload it and get to see public photos of that person along with links to where those photos appeared.

■ The system — whose backbone is a database of more than 3 billion images that Clearview claims to have scraped from Facebook, YouTube, Venmo and millions of other websites — goes far beyond anything ever constructed by the US government or Silicon Valley giants.

■ The computer code underlying its app, analyzed by *The New York Times*, includes programming language to pair it with augmented reality glasses; users would potentially be able to identify every person they saw. (Cue in your spy movie jokes)

■ More than 600 law enforcement agencies have started using Clearview in the past year, according to the company, which declined to provide a list.

■ Clearview has shrouded itself in secrecy, avoiding debate about its boundary-pushing technology. When looking into the company in November, its website was a bare page showing a nonexistent Manhattan address as its place of business. The company's one employee listed on LinkedIn, a sales manager named "John Good," turned out to be Ton-That, using a fake name, according to the *NYT* report.

■ Federal law enforcement, including the FBI and the Department of Homeland Security, are trying it, as are Canadian law enforcement authorities, according to the company.

■ One reason that Clearview is catching on is that its service is unique. That's because social media sites prohibit people from scraping users' images

pation of Huawei," Seehofer told the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung newspaper.

But the call to favor European providers such as Nokia and Ericsson and set up more stringent security rules will please opponents of the Chinese company.

The new impetus by the EU executive echoes calls by French President Emmanuel Macron and others to prevent Europe from relying on China and the US for strategic infrastructure that could be used as geopolitical leverage in the future.

Germany's Seehofer, who is originally from Bavaria, whose car industry is reliant on exports to China, has said he was against banning Chinese telecommunications equipment suppliers such

as Huawei from helping build Germany's 5G network. "I can't see how we can set up a 5G network in Germany in the short term without the partici-

pation of Huawei," Seehofer told the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung newspaper.

German operators are all customers of Huawei, the leading telecoms equipment vendor with a global market share of 28%, and have said that banning it would add years of delays and billions of dollars in costs to launching 5G networks.

But these warnings were dismissed by Breton: "Let me say it loud and clear: contrary to what some would like to suggest, Europe is not lagging behind in 5G. Neither in 5G technology nor in its deployment."

Huawei has denied allegations by the Trump administration.

China's ambassador to Germany, Ken Wu, indicated last month that Beijing could retaliate if Huawei was excluded, pointing to the millions of cars that German automakers sell in his country.

— *Reuters*



Under watchful eyes

Hardik Pandya is set to head to the National Cricket Academy and start his rehabilitation under the watchful eyes of NCA head Rahul Dravid and his team of trainers from Tuesday

DECCAN CHRONICLE

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SHORT TAKES



Lendl Simmons

Simmons hits 10 sixes in WI's win

Basseterre, Saint Kitts & Nevis: Opening batsman Lendl Simmons blasted 10 sixes in an undefeated 91 as West Indies routed Ireland by nine wickets in the third and final Twenty20 International at Warner Park here on Sunday. Simmons, the nephew of West Indies coach Phil Simmons, also hit five boundaries in his 40-ball blitz. It was his highest score in the format and came just five days before his 35th birthday. Chasing a modest 139 to win, Simmons won the match in style with a six over midwicket off spinner Simi Singh whose three overs cost 41 runs. Fellow opener Evin Lewis made 46 with four boundaries and three sixes as West Indies raced to victory with 54 balls remaining. "It was a proper batting surface with the ball coming onto the bat nicely," said Simmons whose ambition is to help West Indies defend their World T20 title in Australia later this year. "I missed out on the last World Cup because of injury but I am looking forward to the one this year." — PTI



Ishant Sharma

Ishant suffers ankle injury

New Delhi: India's senior-most pacer Ishant Sharma hurt his ankle badly while bowling during a Ranji Trophy game here on Monday, raising doubts over his availability for the upcoming Tests in New Zealand. Spearheading the Delhi attack, the 31-year-old suffered the injury in the fifth over of Vidarbha's second innings and his third. "Ishant has twisted his ankle and has swelling. It's looking pretty bad at the moment. We will not risk him again in this match. Let's hope it's not a fracture," a senior Delhi team management member said. "If it's pure swelling, he will be fit in some days. He needs to go to NCA obviously and get his rehab done along with RTP (Return To Play) certificate. We are awaiting his MRI report which we expect by this evening," the source added. It was a fuller delivery that rapped Faiz Fazal on pads, prompting an optimistic Ishant to vociferously appeal on the follow through before slipping suddenly. Ishant looked in real pain as he hobbled off the ground. — PTI

INDIA COLTS TO TAKE ON JAPAN NOW

Bloemfontein, South Africa: Their title defence off to a resounding start, four-time champions India would look to inch closer towards a quarterfinal spot when they take on debutants Japan in a Group 'A' tie of the ICC U-19 World Cup on Tuesday. India cruised to a 90-run victory over Sri Lanka in their opening group league encounter here on Sunday, riding on an impressive batting performance which was topped by a disciplined bowling effort. Japan, on the other hand, were lucky to have garnered a point after their first match against New Zealand was washed out in Potchefstroom on Saturday. India are atop Group A and a victory on Tuesday will virtually guarantee them a place in the last-eight round. India will play New Zealand in their last group match on January 24. The Indians played like favourites on Sunday, excelling in all departments of the game to outclass their South Asian neighbours. Batting first, India scored a competitive 297 for 4, riding on half-centuries from Yashasvi Jaiswal and Priyam Garg. — PTI

The high flyers

After an impressive series win over Aussies, India jet off to New Zealand

Bengaluru, Jan. 20: A series win against a strong Australia and the performance in New Zealand last year gives India a lot of confidence ahead of a fresh tour beginning on January 24, said skipper Virat Kohli whose team will be aiming to put the Black Caps under pressure from the word go.

India will be playing five T20s, three ODIs and two Tests in New Zealand. They had beaten the hosts 4-1 in ODIs before losing the T20 series 1-2.

"We are taking a lot of confidence from our performance (in NZ) last year. We were very positive in how we played, very sure of what we wanted to do. The thing about playing away is if you're able to put the home team under pressure, you can enjoy your cricket," Kohli said on Sunday night here after the seven-wicket win over Australia in the series-deciding third ODI.

"You have to win at home, there's that sort of feeling (for hosts). So if you bring out your A game, you can really put them under pressure. That's what we did last year, squeezed them in the middle overs, picked up wickets, spinners were outstanding. Looking forward to take that same intensity into the series."

Ahead of the New Zealand tour, Kohli said it became even more important to win the home series against Australia here on Sunday.

The team left for New Zealand on Monday night. "We spoke of that at the huddle, that this is the last game we're playing in the series and if we win, you go on a tour on a happy note. If you lose, it can go under the radar, you can brush it aside as 'oh it's just one loss'. "But when you win and win under pressure, the last two games were tough wins, it boosts your confidence which we're carrying forward," he said.

On the limited overs leg of the New Zealand tour, Kohli picked out the areas of improvement. "Again, we want to bat well when

we bat first and in case we're defending a low total, we should be able to do that as well. We can't afford to ease into the series after two games, because then it keeps getting tougher and tougher, so we'll look to make a mark in the first game that we play," he said.

Kohli did not win a toss in the Australia series but his team took that out of the equation by adapting to situations. "We spoke after the World Cup the way we exited, you can't always look for a situation that

should go your way at the time. If we like chasing as a team, it doesn't mean we press the panic button if we lose the toss, we've to stay composed enough to put in strong performances. "We've literally taken the toss out of context, and we're as

prepared as possible to do something the opposition asks us to do," he said.

"That's been the difference, even if we lose the toss, we have the belief that we can play expressive cricket to get results our way. The last six or eight months have been a revelation and the younger guys stepping up is a very good sign for Indian cricket."

The skipper loves playing against Australia as it brings the best out of him.

"Last year (at home) after 2-0 up, we thought we're definitely going to win one of the three at home, but they showed us that they understand these conditions very well now (to win 3-2), having played here a lot in the IPL and so many tours over the years," Kohli said.

— PTI

Rahul set to keep gloves

Bengaluru, Jan. 20: India captain Virat Kohli on Sunday said the team will continue with KL Rahul as the wicketkeeper batsman "for a while" as he lends massive balance to the side just like his illustrious namesake Rahul Dravid did during 2003 World Cup.

Rahul has been in sub-lime touch with the bat and in the last two ODIs against Australia, also did a decent job behind the stumps in 2-1 series win. He kept the wickets here on Sunday even though Rishabh Pant had regained full fitness after getting concussed by Pat Cummins bouncer in the first

ODI. "I think lack of clarity in terms of positions has really hurt us in the past. Now that we understand that this feels right, we will go ahead with that for a while and figure out if this is the right thing to do or not. You cannot chip and change immediately and create confusion among the group," Kohli said.

"We are playing well, unchanged team and did the job two with back to back wins. Don't see any rea-

son why we should change this balance. It has done well for the team," making it clear that Rishabh Pant might have to wait a bit longer for his comeback.

— PTI

ICC ODI Rankings

Team	Matches	Points	Rating
1 England	54	6745	125
2 India	64	7748	121
3 New Zealand	43	4837	112
4 South Africa	47	5193	110
5 Australia	53	5854	110

Top Batsmen

Rating			
1	886	Virat Kohli	IND
2	868	Rohit Sharma	IND
3	829	Babar Azam	PAK
4	815	Francois du Plessis	SA
5	810	Ross Taylor	NZ
(20 Jan 2020)			

Top Bowlers

Rating			
1	764	Jasprit Bumrah	IND
2	737	Trent Boult	NZ
3	701	Mujeeb Ur Rahman	AFG
4	684	Kagiso Rabada	SA
5	673	Pat Cummins	AUS

Tiwary cracks maiden triple ton in first-class

Kalyani, Jan. 20: Senior batsman Manoj Tiwary cracked his maiden first class triple century to put Bengal in the driver's seat against Hyderabad in their Ranji Trophy Group 'A' clash here on Monday.

The 34-year-old, who has played 12 ODIs and 3 T20 Internationals, was at his sublime best, smashing 30 fours and five sixes, en route to his unbeaten 303 from 414 balls at a strike rate of 73.19.

His marathon knock lasted 10 hours and 30 minutes. His final 50 came off just 37 balls as he got to the landmark in the fourth ball of the final session of the second day, gliding part-time Buddha Rahul through covers boundary. Bengal immediately declared their first innings at 635 for seven.

Tiwary, who last played for India in 2015,

BRIEF SCORES

AT MUMBAI: Uttar Pradesh 625/8 decl'd (Upendra Yadav 203 not out; Akshdeep Nath 115; Royston Dias 3-103) vs Mumbai 20/2.

AT CHENNAI: Railways 76 and 90 (Arindam Ghosh 22; R Sai Kishore 5-16, R Ashwin 3-26) lost to Tamil Nadu 330 (Abhinav Mukund 100, Dinesh Karthik 58; Harsh Tyagi 5-98).

AT KALYANI: Bengal 635/7 decl from 151.4 overs (Manoj Tiwary 303 not out, Shreevats Goswami 95, Arnab Nandi 65 not out, Shahbaz Ahmed 49; Ravi Kiran 3/74) vs Hyderabad 83/5 from 20 overs (Akash Deep 3/46, Mukesh Kumar 2/29).

AT DELHI: Vidarbha 179 & 35 for no loss vs Delhi 163 (Aditya Thakare 7/55).

also became the only second batsman from Bengal to hit a triple ton — after Devang Gandhi's 323 versus Assam at Guwahati in 1998-99 season. His previous best was 267 as Bengal skipper against Madhya Pradesh in a drawn encounter in Kolkata in 2011-12 season. After Tiwary's sensational innings, it was time for Bengal pace duo of Akash Deep (3/46) and Mukesh Kumar (2/29) to wreak havoc as they reduced Hyderabad to 83 for five in the final session. Hyderabad still trail Bengal by 552 runs with two days left.

YADAV'S DOUBLE CENTURY FLOORS MUMBAI

At Mumbai, Batsman-wicketkeeper Upendra Yadav's maiden double ton propelled Uttar Pradesh to a mammoth 625/8 declared on the second day of their Elite Group B Ranji Trophy game against Mumbai on

Monday. In reply, Mumbai were teetering at 20-2 when stumps were drawn, trailing by 605 runs.

TN THRASH RAILWAYS IN GROUP 'B' GAME

At Chennai, Tamil Nadu thrashed Railways by an innings and 164 runs on the second day of the Ranji Trophy Group 'B' match, to register its first win of the season. The home side made 330 all out after bundling out Railways for 76 in the first innings before dismissing the opponent for 90 to secure seven points.

Left-arm spinner R Sai Kishore did the star turn, picking up five wickets, conceding just 16 runs to rout Railways. Resuming at the overnight score of 236 for 4, Tamil Nadu suffered an early jolt when the experienced Dinesh Karthik fell to left-arm spinner Harsh Tyagi, adding just one run to his 57. — PTI

CITY CLIPS

Hyderabad U-19 hunt for a win

Hyderabad need 279 runs with eight wickets in hand for an outright win going into the final day's play in their Cooch Behar Trophy Under 19 match against Gujarat at the Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium on Tuesday.

After bowling out the visitors for 366 in their second innings, the hosts were 66 for 2 in their second essay by close of play on the third day on Monday. No.4 MR Vachheta scored a fine century (109 — 218b, 12x4) to bolster his side's total.

Brief scores: Gujarat 222 in 56.5 overs & 366 in 106.5 overs (M. R. Vachheta 109 — 218b, 12x4, Arya Rathod 41, Umang 36, Haswarg Brahmabhatt 70, J. K. Bhatt 42, Venkata Chaitanya 4 for 99, Shazaib Khan 2 for 72, G. Aniketh Reddy 3 for 85) vs Hyderabad 244 in 64.4 overs & 66/2 in 26 overs.



G. Sai Kartteek Reddy (left) and Theertha Shashank pose after making the men's Under 21 doubles final at the Khelo India Youth Games on Monday.

Kartteek-Shashank in doubles final

Telangana tennis players G. Sai Kartteek Reddy and Theertha Shashank beat the tournament top seeds to reach the men's Under 21 doubles finals at the Khelo India Youth Games being held at Guwahati in Assam. In the semifinals played on Monday, the TS team fought back to beat Atharva Sharma and Dhruv Sunish of Maharashtra with a 4-6, 7-5, 10-8 scoreline.

AOC thump AGORC in Superleague

Army Ordnance Corps thumped Accountant General's Office Recreation Club 5-1 in their 'A' Division Rahim Superleague football match played at the Gymkhana ground in Secunderabad.

AGORC took the lead in the 15th minute of the match via Nithin Sharma and then it was AOC all the way as Anil Kumar struck in the 43rd and 91st minutes, D. K. Mehtoh scored in the 65th, Niphin slotted home in the 78th and Sanjiv got one in the 79th minute.

Srinath leads hoopsters to 2 golds

Hyderabad's P. B. Srinath coached the Indian basketball teams to two gold medals in the 13th edition of the South Asian Federation Games held at Kathmandu & Pokhara.

The Indian women's teams won titles in both the 5x5 as well as 3x3 categories at the championship. In the 5x5, India beat Maldives 156-33; Sri Lanka 136-50; Bhutan 134-27 and hosts Nepal 127-46 on way to the title. In 3x3, they defeated Sri Lanka 18-10; Nepal 21-11 and again beat Sri Lanka 15-12 in the finals.

Srinath, a Level II Coach of the World Association of Basketball Coaches (WABC), is the only international basketball coach from Telangana State and works as a Deputy Manager in State Bank of India.



P. B. Srinath

R-Day basketball at City College

The City College Old Boys (CCOB) basketball club is organising Republic Day One Day Tournament on January 26 at the City College ground. The tournament, open to all clubs, colleges, corporate teams and departments, will be played on a knockout basis. Matches start from 9 am and entry fee per team of eight members is ₹400. For further details, contact CCOB secretary S. Hanumanth Rao on phone number 9393004825.

Chess tourney for girls from Saturday

The Telangana State Chess Association is conducting Smart Girl Fide Rating Tournament for girls from January 25 to 29 at the Lal Bahadur Stadium's Yoga Hall in Hyderabad. There is no age limit in the nine-round event which starts at 11 am. Interested players should enroll their names before January 22 through www.chesstelangana.com or on phones 7337578899, 7337399299.

Pranay, Asma are chess champions

Following are the winners of the 27th Telangana State Ranking Chess Tournament organised by the Telangana State Chess Association at Lal Bahadur Stadium.

FINAL STANDINGS

■ **Under 7 boys:** 1. Aarush Singhai (4 points), 2. Anand Gopal Reddy I (4 points), 3. Vishwak Ch (3 points). **Girls:** 1. Kunchala Deepthi (3 points), 2. G Sarvani Bhanuja (2).
■ **Under 9 boys:** 1. Sankalperuthvik Akella (4 points), 2. Aarnav Krishna Sripadam (3.5 points), 3. Krithik Anand M R (3.5 points). **Girls:** 1. Kota Phanisri Aadya (4 points), 2. Sahasra Reddy I (3 points), 3. Pujitha Mynam (3 points).
■ **Under 11 boys:** 1. Ganesh Raju (4 points), 2. Arora Abhiraj (4 points), 3. Mishra Shivansh (3 points). **Girls:** 1. Lakshmi Sameeraja Ravula (3.5 points), 2. Samhita Pungavanam (3 points), 3. Nikita Sachin (2 points).
■ **Under 13 boys:** 1. Pranay Venkatesh (4 points), 2. Aarush Vuppugandla (3.5 points), 3. N Sai Kiran (3 points). **Girls:** 1. Asma Maryam Begum (3.5 points), 2. Nigamaa Sree D (3.5 points), 3. Sanveer R (3.5 points).
■ **Under 15 boys:** 1. Siddarth Ramanand V V S (3.5 points), 2. Parth Gupta (3 points), 3. Sikkam Sai Vishnu (3 points). **Girls:** 1. Sneha Suravajjula.
■ **Under 17 boys:** 1. Andabatta Satvik (3.5 points), 2. Chaitanya Kumar A (3.5 points), 3. Satwik Bulusu (3 points). **Girls:** 1. Samartha Sridaran.



M. Laxma Reddy, Chairman of MLR Group of Institutes, presents the winners trophy to Medchal District team who won the overall championship at the 6th Telangana Masters Athletics in Hyderabad.



Setback

Manchester United manager Ole Gunnar Solskjaer reveals Marcus Rashford will be sidelined for at least six weeks after suffering a stress fracture in his back

Games

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DECCAN CHRONICLE

TUESDAY | 21 JANUARY 2020 | HYDERABAD

SHORT TAKES

Dicka brace helps Punjab beat Kerala

Ludhiana: A Dipanda Dicka brace helped Punjab FC register a 3-1 victory over Gokulam Kerala in an I-League match here on Monday. Sergio Barboza Jr broke the deadlock in the first-half stoppage time before a Henry Kisekka goal drew the visitors level in the 52nd minute. Dicka restored Punjab's advantage via a free-kick in the 64th minute, before adding his second in stoppage time to seal the three points in emphatic fashion. Punjab head coach Yan Law named an unchanged starting eleven, choosing not to experiment as the race for the title begins to take shape, with their opponents from Kerala firmly in the equation. Fernando Varela, on the back of Gokulam's resounding win against East Bengal, made just two changes to his side, with Mohamed Irshad and Muthu Irulandi getting the nod in his 3-5-2 formation. — PTI

Adhiban, Sasikiran lead Indian charge

Gibraltar: Grand Masters B. Adhiban and K. Sasikiran will spearhead the Indian challenge in the masters category of the 18th Gibraltar International Chess Festival which starts here on Tuesday. Leading the field are GMs Shakhriyar Mamedyarov from Azerbaijan and Maxime Vachier-Lagrave from France. Other top players include Hao Wang of China, Veselin Topalov (Bulgaria), David Navara from the Czech Republic and GM Liem Le Quang from Vietnam. A huge Indian contingent, comprising about 40 players, will be taking part in the tournament and the focus will be on gaining ELO rating points. Among the men, apart from Adhiban and Sasikiran, young guns like D. Gukesh, the country's youngest GM R. Praggnanandhaa, Raunak Sadhwani, S.L. Narayanan and several others including Karthikeyan Murali are in the fray. — PTI

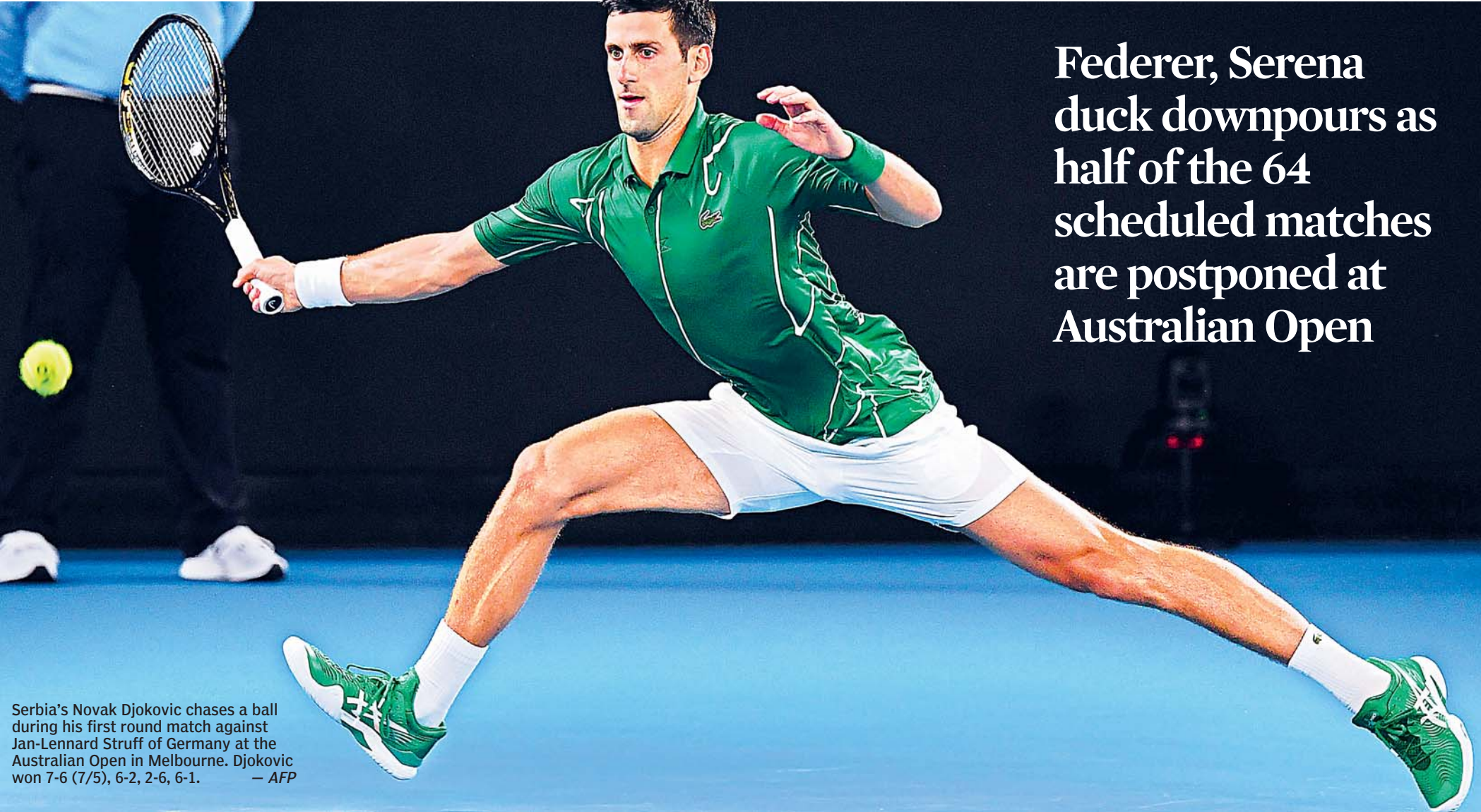
Chennai schoolboy stuns Georgian GM

Chennai: Chennai schoolboy G.B. Harshavardhan stunned Georgia's Grand Master Mikheil Mchedlishvili in the fourth round of the 12th Chennai Open International GM chess tournament 2020 here on Monday. With the win, Harshavardhan moved into joint lead with GMs Jose Eduardo Martinez Alcantara (Peru), Stanislav Bogdanovich (Ukraine), N.R. Visakh (India) and IMs Muhammad Khuseinkhojaev (Tajikistan) and Indian Sayantan Das with four points. Top-seeded GM Pavel Ponkrantov (Russia) is half a point behind the leaders at 3.5 points in a pack of 20 players. The top board game between International Master P. Karthikeyan and Ponkrantov ended in a tame draw. — PTI

SATWIK SHINES FOR SUPERSTARZ IN PBL OPENER

Chennai: Satwiksairaj Rankireddy dazzled with his array of hard-hitting smashes as the fifth edition of the Star Sports Premier Badminton League got off to a thunderous start with a clash between the Chennai Superstarz and Hyderabad Hunters at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium here on Monday. Appearing in Chennai's yellow colours for the very first time, the 19-year-old impressed the crowd with his aggressive brand of badminton in partnership with Jessica Pugh against Hyderabad's pair of Sikki Reddy and Vladimir Ivanov. The World No. 11 was at the top of his game against his previous team as the home pair cruised to a 15-6 lead. Sikki and Ivanov, both being PBL veterans, knew the right moment to lift their games and levelled the encounter at one game apiece in this thrilling opener. While they had control in the initial stages of the decider and led 8-4, it all needed a spark from Thailand Open champion Rankireddy to get themselves back into contention at 12-12. The duo was able to save match point before Rankireddy and Pugh wrapped it up 15-6, 13-15, 15-13. — Agencies

Regd. No. H/SD/509/2018-20
Printed and Published by T. Venkateswarlu on behalf of Deccan Chronicle Holdings Limited. Printed at Deccan Chronicle Press situated at Plot No. 9, Alwal Village, Vailabh Nagar Taluk, Medchal Malkajgiri Dist. Telangana and Published at 36, S.D. Road, Secunderabad-3. RNI Registration No. 3081/1957. Editor: Aditya Sinha



Serbia's Novak Djokovic chases a ball during his first round match against Jan-Lennard Struff of Germany at the Australian Open in Melbourne. Djokovic won 7-6 (7/5), 6-2, 2-6, 6-1. — AFP

NOVHACKED!

Djokovic drops a set in first round of AO, 1st since 2006

Melbourne, Jan. 20: Novak Djokovic survived a scare to join Roger Federer and Serena Williams in the Australian Open second round as heavy downpours caused chaos on Monday, forcing organisers to postpone a swathe of matches.

Defending champion Germany's Jan-Lennard Struff in four sets on the first day, when fears over air pollution were replaced by disruption caused by rain.

While play continued at the three stadiums with retractable roofs, half of the 64 scheduled matches were postponed, ensuring a big backlog for Tuesday.

Wet conditions are unusual for the Australian Open, which is more used to extreme heat and was plagued by smog from bushfires during qualifying, when players suffered coughing fits and breathing problems.

Air quality was rated 'good' as the first round started on Monday but about four hours later play was suspended on outside courts when the heavens opened.

World number three Federer was briefly hauled off court while the

roof was closed on Rod Laver Arena before returning to complete a routine 6-3, 6-2, 6-2 victory over American Steve Johnson.

Williams, on the hunt for a record-equalling 24th Grand Slam title, won the first set against Anastasia Potapova in just 19 minutes as she cruised to a 6-0, 6-3 win in less than an hour.

However, Williams' elder sister Venus was ousted in stunning fashion by 15-year-old Coco Gauff, who won 7-6 (7/5), 6-2, 2-6, 6-1. A repeat of her first-round upset at Wimbledon last year.

In the late match, defending champion Djokovic dropped his first set since 2006 in the opening round before recovering to beat Jan-Lennard Struff 7-6 (7/5), 6-2, 2-6, 6-1.

Former US Open champion Sloane Stephens was the biggest women's casualty on day one when she crashed out in three sets to Zhang Shuai of China — her fourth first-round exit in Melbourne.

Defending champion Naomi Osaka was done



Serena Williams reacts during her match against Potapova. — AFP

well before the downpour as she dismissed Marie Bouzkova of the Czech Republic 6-2, 6-4 in 80 minutes, smashing one powerful serve that broke a net

fastening. Later on the covered centre court, Australian world number one Ashleigh Barty recovered strongly from a set down to beat Lesia



Tsurenko 5-7, 6-1, 6-1.

In the men's draw, Greek sixth seed Stefanos Tsitsipas crushed Salvatore Caruso 6-0, 6-2, 6-3. In other results, Canadian 13th seed Denis Shapovalov argued furiously with the umpire over a code violation for throwing his racket as he lost in four sets to Marton Fucsovics.

Croatian 25th seed Borna Coric was another first-round loser as he went down to experienced American Sam Querrey, while Australia's Sam Stosur bombed out against Caty McNally.

But former champion Caroline Wozniacki, playing her last tournament before retiring, safely reached the second round as she beat Kristie Ahn 6-1, 6-3. — AFP

KEY RESULTS

Men's singles 1st round

Sam Querrey (USA) bt Borna Coric (CRO x25) 6-3, 6-4, 6-4; Guido Pella (ARG x22) bt John-Patrick Smith (AUS) 6-3, 7-5, 6-4; Marton Fucsovics (HUN) bt Denis Shapovalov (CAN x13) 6-3, 6-7 (7/9), 6-1, 7-6 (7/3); Grigor Dimitrov (BUL x18) bt Juan Ignacio Londero (ARG) 4-6, 6-2, 6-0, 6-4; Daniel Evans (GBR x30) bt Mackenzie McDonald (USA) 3-6, 4-6, 6-1, 6-2, 6-3; Yoshihito Nishioka (JPN) bt Laslo Djere (SRB) 6-4, 3-6, 6-2, 7-6 (7/1); Roger Federer (SUI x3) bt Steve Johnson (USA) 6-3, 6-2, 6-2; Stefanos Tsitsipas (GRE x6) bt Salvatore Caruso (ITA) 6-0, 6-2, 6-3; Philipp Kohlschreiber (GER) bt Marcos Giron (USA) 7-5, 6-1, 6-2; Novak Djokovic (SRB x2) bt Jan-Lennard Struff (GER) 7-6 (7/5), 6-2, 2-6, 6-1.

Women's singles 1st round

Ekaterina Alexandrova (RUS x25) bt Jill Teichmann (SUI) 6-4, 4-6, 6-2; Barbora Krejickova (CZE) bt Kaia Kanepi (EST) 7-6 (7/3), 2-6, 6-3; Paula Badosa (ESP) bt Johanna Larsson (SWE) 6-1, 6-0; Petra Kvitova (CZE x7) bt Katerina Siniakova (CZE) 6-1, 6-0; Naomi Osaka (JPN x3) bt Marie Bouzkova (CZE) 6-2, 6-4; Sofia Kenin (USA x14) bt Martina Trevisan (ITA) 6-2, 6-4; Caroline Wozniacki (DEN) bt Kristie Ahn (USA) 6-1, 6-3; Serena Williams (USA x8) bt Anastasia Potapova (RUS) 6-0, 6-3; Ashleigh Barty (AUS x1) bt Lesya Tsurenko (UKR) 5-7, 6-1, 6-1; Coco Gauff (USA) bt Venus Williams (USA) 7-6 (7/5), 6-3; Caty McNally (USA) bt Samantha Stosur (AUS) 6-1, 6-4; Zhang Shuai (CHN) bt Sloane Stephens (USA x24) 2-6, 7-5, 6-2

PERSECUTED FOR MY BELIEFS, COMPLAINS TENNIS ACE COURT

Melbourne, Jan. 20: Australian tennis great Margaret Court said she was being "persecuted" for her beliefs on Monday after criticism of her anti-gay views overshadowed 50th anniversary celebrations of her 1970 Grand Slam.

The 77-year-old, now a church pastor, urged the media to focus on her tennis and not her beliefs, which include staunch opposition to same-sex marriage and comments that tennis is "full of lesbians".

Court, tennis's most decorated champion with a record 24 Grand Slam titles, has caused a dilem-

ma for Australian Open organisers, who will mark the anniversary but have distanced themselves from her opinions.

"I think even at home, around the streets, wherever I go, I've had so many people touch me on the shoulder and say 'thank you for being my voice,'" Court told ABC radio.

"I haven't had anybody touch me on the shoulder and say 'I hate you' or 'I don't like what you've said'. I teach what the Bible says about things and you get persecuted for it," added Court. — AFP



■ Van Dijk, Salah score as Reds open up 16-point EPL lead Liverpool leave United in shade

Liverpool, Jan. 20: Liverpool fans should be dreaming of a first Premier League title for 30 years, admitted Jurgen Klopp even if the German is taking nothing for granted after opening up a 16-point lead at the top of the table.

Goals early and late from Virgil van Dijk and Mohamed Salah earned a 2-0 victory over Manchester United at Anfield on Sunday and a 13th straight league win since the sides last met at Old Trafford in October.

After Salah galloped clear to score from goalkeeper Alisson Becker's assist deep into stoppage time, the Liverpool fans broke into a chorus of "we are going to win the league" for the first time this season.

Klopp dismissed any notion that will only ramp up the pressure on his players, but is already focusing on his next challenge away to Wolves on Thursday.

"They are allowed to dream, allowed to sing, as long as they do their job as well in the moment when we play," said Klopp, who praised the Anfield atmos-



Liverpool's Mohamed Salah (right) celebrates with Virgil van Dijk after scoring against Manchester United in their Premier League match at Anfield on Sunday. — AFP

phere for "carrying" his side as they tired in the closing stages.

"I have no idea whether we will be caught or not, I don't care.

Messi ensures Setien enjoys winning start

Madrid, Jan. 20: Quique Setien may want a different Barcelona but he needed the same old Lionel Messi on Sunday as the Argentinian gave his new coach a winning start with the only goal in a 1-0 victory over Granada.

Messi's strike in the 76th minute won a cagey contest at the Camp Nou and prevented the much-anticipated launch of Setien's new era becoming something of a damp squib.

Victory also sends Barca back to the top of La Liga on goal difference, after Real Madrid had briefly claimed first place following their win over Sevilla on Saturday.

It would have been different if Granada's Yan Eteki hadn't struck the post with just over 20 minutes left or their central defender German Sanchez not been sent off for a needless second yellow card soon after.

The extra man was the boost Barca needed and

LA LIGA	
THE RESULTS	
Barcelona (Messi 76)	1
Granada	0
Real Mallorca (Raül 7, Budimir 22, 41, Rodriguez 79)	4
Valencia (Torres 82)	1
Real Betis (Iglesias 27, Joaquin 44, Canales 90+5)	3
Real Sociedad	0
Villarreal (Cazorla 62-pen)	1
Espanol (D. Lopez 5, Tomas 47)	2
Athletic Bilbao (Raul Garcia 76-pen)	1
Celta Vigo (Rafa 56)	1

Messi duly poked home his 17th goal in 21 games this season following good work by Arturo Vidal, Antoine Griezmann and the 20-year-old Riqui Puig.

All three had reasons to impress, particularly Puig, whose inclusion on the bench was an early indication of Setien's belief in youth.

Setien said last week that if he could make one guarantee, it was that Barcelona would play good football while he is in charge and although few could argue this was a transformative display following the sacking of Ernesto Valverde, there were certainly some encouraging signs.

The passing was faster, the pressing higher and Messi spent most of the match playing down the middle, with Griezmann on the left and Ansu Fati, another youngster, on the right. Setien claimed on Saturday he would never go home happy after winning and playing badly but a 1-0 victory gets his tenure off to a positive start and, with Real showing no sign of stuttering, he could hardly afford anything less. — AFP

THE RESULTS

Liverpool (Van Dijk 14, Salah 90+3)	2
Manchester United	0
Burnley (Wood 56, Westwood 79)	2
Leicester (Barnes 33)	1

"First and foremost it's the Premier League. We play Wolves on Thursday, it's our next exceptional challenge. I don't have enough space in my brain to contemplate anything else."

Liverpool also have a game in hand to come on closest challengers Manchester City and the gulf in class between the European champions and United was exposed by the 30-point gap between them in the table, if not the score-line on the day.

United are the only team to take Premier League points off Klopp's men this season, but it rarely looked like lightning would strike twice once the hosts went in front on 14 minutes. — AFP