



Granted bail

After remaining in police custody for a week, Congress leader Hardik Patel was granted bail by two courts

DECCAN CHRONICLE

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SHORT TAKES

BJP LEADER HELD, GETS BAIL FOR RANT

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC BHOPAL, JAN. 24

Senior BJP leader and former minister Badrinal Yadav was on Friday arrested for making objectionable comments on Rajgarh collector Nidhi Nivedita a couple of days ago. He was later released on bail.

The BJP leader had made the remarks while addressing a public meeting at Biaora in Rajgarh district. The meeting had been organised by the party to protest against slapping of a BJP activist by the collector during a pro-Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) rally in Biaora last week.

Police on Thursday registered a case under the Indian Penal Code against Mr Yadav. The BJP leader was arrested in two cases, one registered on Thursday and the other filed earlier, and later produced before the local first class judicial magistrate, Rajgarh district superintendent of police Pradip Sharma said. He was released on bail after furnishing personal bonds of ₹20,000 each in the two cases.

FADNAVIS' PLEA IN SC OPEN COURT

New Delhi: The Supreme Court has agreed to hear in open court former Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis' plea seeking review of its verdict which said the BJP leader will have to face trial for allegedly failing to furnish details of two pending criminal cases in his 2014 poll affidavit. "Application seeking oral hearing of review petitions in open court is/are allowed. List review petitions before the court," a bench of Justices Arun Mishra, Deepak Gupta and Aniruddha Bose said in its Thursday's order. On October 1, 2019, the apex court had set aside the Bombay HC order giving a clean chit to Fadnavis and had held that he did not deserve to be tried.

NIRBHAYA CASE CONVICTS SEEK MORE PAPERS

New Delhi: The advocate appearing for two of the four death row convicts in the 2012 Nirbhaya gang-rape and murder case on Friday moved a Delhi court alleging that the Tihar jail authorities are delaying in handing over certain documents. Advocate A.P. Singh moved an application alleging that the jail authorities are yet to release the documents that are required to file curative petitions for Akshay Kumar Singh, 31, and Pawan Singh, 25. The plea is likely to be taken up for hearing on Saturday. The SC recently dismissed the curative petition for other two convicts—Vinay Kumar Sharma (26) and Mukesh Singh (32). The hanging of all four is to take place on February 1 at 6 am as per the court order. A 23-year-old paramedic student, referred to as Nirbhaya, was gang-raped and brutally assaulted on the intervening night of December 16-17, 2012, in a moving bus in south Delhi by six people before she was thrown out on the road.

CUISINE | SUSPICION

Triggers row with comment on Bangla workers

BJP leader fears pocha eaters

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC BHOPAL, JAN. 24

Kailash Vijayvargiya, BJP national general secretary and in-charge of party affairs in West Bengal, triggered a political row when he expressed fears over threats from infiltrators from Bangladesh.

Mr Vijayvargiya, while addressing a seminar in support of CAA on Thursday evening, narrated how he grew suspicious about the food habits of the workers engaged by a contractor during the renovation of his house in Indore and how the construction workers suddenly disap-

peared later strengthening his suspicion of them further.

According to him, the contractor had hired some workers to renovate a room in his house.

However, he grew suspicious when he found that the staple diet of the workers was 'pocha', a cuisine made of flattened rice and they communicated with each other in an incomprehensible language. He later found that they were Bangladeshi infiltrators. The workers curiously did not turn up when he queried on them from their contractor. Vijayvargiya also indicated that he has been under surveillance of

a Bangladeshi terrorist for the last one-and-a-half years. "I was never escorted by security personnel even when I was a minister in the Madhya Pradesh government earlier. Now, I have to move around being escorted by half-a-dozen security men due to threat from terrorists", he added. He said 8000 out of 38000 villages in West Bengal have no Hindu inhabitants and have been intruded by Bangladeshi infiltrators.

Mr Vijayvargiya said CAA was not going to strip citizenship of Indians. He accused Opposition parties, including the Congress, of creating fear psychosis among Muslims

on CAA. The ruling Congress on Friday regretted his statement alleging that the BJP leader had cooked up a story to lend credence to controversial Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA).

Narendra Saluja, the Congress spokesman here on Friday expressed doubt about the claims of Mr Vijayvargiya and asked him if he had ever reported the matter to police. "Mr Vijayvargiya, who has been accorded Z plus security, should clarify why he has not reported the matter to police. He has cooked up a story to lend credence to CAA," Mr Saluja said.

BJP takes to Hindutva as AAP has Delhi edge

Opinion polls predict yet another clean sweep by AAP

SHASHI BHUSHAN | DC NEW DELHI, JAN 24

With opinion polls and reports indicating that the Aam Aadmi Party led by Arvind Kejriwal has an edge in the forthcoming Delhi polls, the BJP has fallen back on its nationalist plank to consolidate the Hindu vote bank. The top leaders of the party ranging from home minister Amit Shah to information and broadcasting minister Prakash Javdekar have begun evoking Pakistan to woo the voters. The saffron camp is trying to project that the Delhi elections was actually a contest between India and Pakistan.

On Friday, Mr Javdekar, also BJP's election in-charge for Delhi, speaking to the media said that the

EC ORDERS TWITTER TO TAKE DOWN KAPIL MISHRA'S IND vs PAK TWEET

New Delhi, Jan. 24: Delhi police on Friday lodged an FIR against BJP candidate Kapil Mishra in connection with his controversial tweet in which he likened the election in the city to an India versus Pakistan contest, sources said.

The FIR was filed following directions of the poll authorities, they said. It was lodged at the Model Town Police Station und-

er Section 125 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, the sources said. Twitter, meanwhile, removed the controversial tweet following the directions of the Election Commission. "This Tweet from @KapilMishra IND has been withheld in India in response to a legal demand," Twitter wrote on the platform along with an impression of the old tweet.

voters in the national capital need to decide on whether they want "Jinnah wali azadi or Bharat Mata ki jai." On Thursday, the home minis-

ter said that Mr Kejriwal, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan "speak the same language."

Referring to Shaheen Bagh's anti-Citizenship Amendment Act protests, Mr Javedkar said : "We have seen 'Jinnah Wali Azadi' slogan being raised there. Now, Delhi people need to decide if they want 'Jinnah Wali Azadi' or 'Bharat Mata ki Jai'."

The Union minister blamed the AAP and the Congress for instigating violent protests against the CAA in the national capital. "Delhi people should ask both the parties why did they instigate violence...? The nexus of AAP and Congress is behind the Shaheen Bagh protest. Chief minister Arvind Kejriwal has supported the protest. Mr Kejriwal sympathises with people raising 'Jinnah Wali Azadi' slogans," he said.

SC refuses to admit plea on National Security Act

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, JAN. 24

The Supreme Court on Friday refused to entertain a plea challenging the imposition of National Security Act (NSA) in few states as also in the national capital amid anti-CAA protests.

A bench of Justices Arun Mishra and Indira Banerjee said that it cannot pass a blanket order with regard to the imposition of NSA and asked lawyer M.L. Sharma to withdraw the plea.

The apex court asked Mr Sharma to file a fresh petition or an interim application in pending pleas on the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) giving specific details of violations of NSA.

Mr Sharma's plea said NSA has been imposed to curb and pressure people protesting against the CAA, National Population Register (NPR) and National Register of Indian Citizens (NRIC).

Delhi's Lieutenant Governor Anil Bajjal on January 10 extended detaining powers to Delhi Police under the NSA for a three-month period starting January 19. This allows police to detain a person for 12 months without trial.

Mr Sharma had made the Ministry of Home Affairs and the governments of Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Manipur parties to the plea, which termed the notification, allowing police to invoke NSA to detain persons, as "unconstitu-

tional" and violative of fundamental rights guaranteed under Article 19 (1) (freedom of speech and expression) and 21 (right to life) of the Constitution.

Seeking quashing of the notification, the plea said : "The cause of actions arose on January 10, when respondents (states) imposed NSA Act for next three months with effect from January 19 in Delhi as well as in Andhra Pradesh by the state government to arrest and detain...For protests against a person holding office of the prime minister and ministers in the Central government...."

It had also sought a direction that it be declared that the NSA cannot be used against protesters.

Karnataka rebel MLAs not to get Cabinet berths: BSY

B. ARAVINDA SHETTY | DC BENGALURU, JAN. 24

In what could be termed as a major blow to the rebel MLAs who helped to install Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government in Karnataka, six months back, the Chief Minister, B.S.Yediyurappa, on Friday, categorically stated that defeated rebel MLAs in recent the bye-elections, will not be inducted into his cabinet, which likely to be expanded within a week.

Mr Yediyurappa, who landed in Bengaluru after a five-day visit to Davos, Switzerland, said that the Cabinet expansion will take place in three or four days.

"Union Home Minister, Amit Shah, will be visiting Bengaluru on Saturday, after discussing with him I will go for an expansion. There is no question of inducting defeated former MLAs to

IF THE Chief Minister inducted half-a-dozen rebel MLAs, it would lead to turmoil within the party

the Cabinet," said Mr. Yediyurappa. Former MLAs, H.Vishwanth and M.T.B. Nagaraj were defeated in the bye elections from Hunasuru and Hoskote Assembly constituencies respectively. Thus both prominent Kuruba leaders are ruled out to enter BSY cabinet.

In fact, all these days, Mr. Yediyurappa assured that he will not break the promises given to all 17 rebel MLAs who had switched over to BJP from the Congress and JD(S) after dethroning H.D. Kumaraswamy headed coalition government. Mr. Yediyurappa repeatedly assured interest of all rebel MLAs will be taken care including Cabinet birth to all notwithstanding

ing bye-elections results.

The sudden U-turn of the Chief Minister, soon after he returned from Davos, came as big shock to the rebel MLAs.

Among 17 MLAs, 12 MLAs have been re-elected under the BJP ticket in the recently held bye-elections. For two constituencies bye-elections are yet to be announced.

Sources close to BJP state unit, said that the BJP central leadership has not given permission to the Chief Minister to induct all 12 newly elected MLAs to the Cabinet. Party central leadership has instructed the Chief Minister to take only 6 to 8 MLAs who came from Congress and JD(S). If the Chief Minister inducts half a dozen MLAs, it would lead to another turmoil in the party. Rebel MLAs who are presently intact, will not allow Mr. Yediyurappa to sleep peacefully, sources in the state BJP unit said.



BUREAU OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY
(A Statutory body under Ministry of Power, Government of India)
4th Floor, Sewa Bhawan, R. K. Puram, New Delhi - 110066
Website: www.beeindia.gov.in, Ph. 011-26746700

EMPANELMENT / RE-EMPANELMENT OF ESCOs

Applications are invited from organizations for empanelment / re-empanelment as Energy Service Company (ESCO) with Bureau of Energy Efficiency with effect from the date of publication of this advertisement.

Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) is promoting energy efficiency initiatives in the country under the Energy Conservation Act, 2001, including promotion of energy conservation measures in existing facilities through ESCO model. ESCO is an organization engaged in a performance based contract with a client firm to implement measures which reduce energy consumption and costs in a technically viable manner. BEE intends to prepare and maintain a list of empaneled Energy Service Companies with validity of two years.

In order to get empaneled/re-empaneled as ESCO with BEE, all ESCOs have to submit complete application forms to the SEBI accredited Rating Agencies CRISIL/CARE/ICRA.

The advertisement, application format indicating criteria, contact details of SEBI accredited agencies and process for empanelment can be downloaded from www.beeindia.gov.in The last date for submission of complete application forms to the SEBI Accredited Rating agencies CRISIL/CARE/ICRA is within 30 days from the date of publication of this advertisement. Incomplete applications and those received after due date would be rejected.

Secretary

davp 34106/11/0056/1920



Bihar Skill Development Mission (BSDM)

Department of Labour Resources

A-Wing, 5th Floor, Niyojan Bhawan, Bailey Road, Patna-800001

Phone: 0612-2528455 Fax: 0612-2535004

Email: biharskilldevelopmentmission@gmail.com

Website: www.skillmissionbihar.org

CORRIGENDUM NOTICE

RFP Name: RFP for Selection of Agency by Bihar Skill Development Mission (BSDM) for conducting "Sectoral Skill Gap Study and Youth Aspiration Mapping Study" in all 38 Districts of Bihar vide Ref. No. **BSDM/02/2019-2020 dated 06.01.2020** published in papers vide PR No. - 13386 (LRD) 2019-20.

In view of pre-bid meeting, certain modifications/amendments in some of the provisions of above RFP is made as below:

1.The value of "Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)" wherever written has been modified to Rs. 2,00,000/- (Two Lac) from Rs. 5,00,000/- (Five Lac).

Hence the value of "Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)" will be Rs. 2,00,000/- (Two Lac).

2.The last date to download the tender document from the website "https://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in" is extended from 01.02.2020 (15:00 Hrs.) to 15.02.2020 (15:00 Hrs.). The last date for uploading of Bid is extended from 03.02.2020 to 17.02.2020 up to 15.00 Hrs. Also the last date of EMD submission is extended from 03.02.2020 to 17.02.2020 up to 15.00 Hrs. Technical Bid will be opened on 17.02.2020 at 16:00 Hrs.

3. Under Page 16; Point B of Technical Evaluation "EVALUATION CRITERIA OF TECHNICAL PROPOSAL (ST); Category 2 - Similar Project Experience":

The line "Subject to cumulatively maximum of 50 marks" Should be read as "40 Marks".

4. Under Page 18; Point (D) Combined Evaluation of Technical & Financial Bid: The weightage for calculation of Total Score under Combined Evaluation of Technical & Financial Bid (QCBS System) have been modified as below:

The Marks under Technical Proposal will have a total weightage of [80%] while Financial Score will have a total weightage of [20%]

The Total score of the Bidder will be determined as under: **Total Score (TS) = (0.8x ST) + (0.2x SF)**

The other terms and conditions of the RFP document will remain the same. Please refer the RFP document for other details.

This Corrigendum document and response to pre-bid has also been uploaded in the Tender section of Websites: <https://www.eproc.bihar.gov.in>.

Additional Chief Secretary,
Department of Labour Resources, Government of Bihar,
Niyojan Bhawan, Patna – 800001

-cum- Chief Executive Officer, Bihar Skill Development Mission.
PR No. 014560(Labour)/2019-20

अवैध शराब एवं मदक द्रव्य के संबंध में शिकायत टॉल फ्री नं. 18003456268 या 15545 पर करें

Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation						
NIT No.	NAME OF WORK	Estimate Amount /ECV	Start Date/Last Date & Times for receipt of Bid	Name	Address	Officer Cell No.
35/SE (K2)/TA/GHMC/2019-20 (2 nd Call)	Providing office Chambers to officials; Electrification and interior works, etc.	150.00 Lakhs	25.01.20 at 3.00 PM 28.01.20 at 3.00 PM	SE/K2/GHMC		Cell No: 2630029534
GHMC/NK/JET/NDiv-28/2019-2050	Maintenance Works, CC Road-5, VDDC-1, Other-4 (10 Works) etc.	146.18 Lakhs	27.01.20 at 4.00 PM 30.01.20 at 4.00 PM	EE/Div-28/NK/JG/HMC		Cell No: 9899830374
61/EE/Div-14/GHMC/2019-20	Laying of 600mm dia Storm Water Drain with RCC NP2 pipes. Construction of Walking track, Repairs to the CRIS Masonry Wall and slab of rala n Maintenance of Graveyard(10 Works) under Division 14,KZ, GHMC, etc.	53.25 Lakhs	24.01.20 at 10.30 AM 27.01.20 at 3.00 PM	EE-14/GHMC/Abids		Cell No: 989930428
E/5826/39/GHMC/2019-20/07	(4) Nos. Annual Desilting of Minor SW Drain (With Manual) for the Year 2020(Jan to Dec), etc.	35.50 Lakhs	25.01.20 at 12.00 PM 03.02.20 at 12.00 PM	E.E.Cir-3/Hyath: Nagar		Cell No: 8008103621
68/EE/Div-17/KZ/GHMC/2019-20	Remodelling of existing Storm Water NP3 pipe line, Div-17,KZ, GHMC, etc.	20.00 Lakhs	25.01.20 at 11.30 AM 28.01.20 at 4.30 PM	EE/Div-17/KZ/GHMC		
EE/RS/Cir-XI/RJR/GHMC/2019-20	For 1 No. work of Laying of 300mm SWG pipeline and CC Road with RMC in Ward No.57 in RJNR Cir-XI, GHMC, etc.	15.71 Lakhs	24.01.20 at 4.30 PM 28.01.20 at 4.45 PM	E.E.RJNR, Cir. XI/GHMC		Cell No: 98990775
For further details can be seen at e-procurement link: https://www.tender.eprocurement.gov.in						
R.O.No.259/CIPRO/GHMC/2019-20 Call 040-2111111 for 24x7 GHMC Services.						
						Commissioner.



MP booked

Kerala police booked case against Karnataka BJP MP Shobha Karandlaje for alleging Hindu families were denied water in Muslim dominated Malappuram district

BRIEF

Coonor student stabbed in Toronto

Ooty: A 23-year-old Rachel Albert hailing from Coonor is battling for life after being stabbed near the York University campus in Toronto, Canada, late on Wednesday. Her grief-stricken father Albert, a businessman living at Brooklands in Coonoor, said his family heard the shocking news only on Thursday night from a friend in Canada. He said Rachel, his younger daughter, flew to Canada a few months back to pursue masters in management. "We do not know who stabbed her and how it happened," he added.

Sand smugglers kill Gulf returnee

Thiruvananthapuram: A Gulf returnee farmer was crushed to death by sand smugglers using an excavator when he tried to stop them from excavating sand from his compound in Katakada on the outskirts of Kerala's capital Thiruvananthapuram on Thursday midnight. The assailants escaped after the murder. The victim has been identified as Sangeeth, 36. While one of the assailants surrendered before the police, five others are absconding. The incident took place around midnight on Thursday when a gang entered their premises and started excavating mud using an excavator. The farmer had returned from the Gulf one-and-a-half-year-ago and availed a loan to start a vegetable farming and poultry farming in the plot adjoining his house.

HOUSEBOATS INSPECTED AFTER FIRE

DC CORRESPONDENT THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, JAN. 24

The police on Friday carried out extensive inspection on the boats operating in Alappuzha district to weed out unsafe ones. The decision to inspect them was taken in the wake of a fire incident in a houseboat on Thursday. Sixteen persons had a narrow escape when the boat caught fire in the midst of a cruise in Vembanad lake in Alappuzha district. The houseboat had no licence and was operating illegally. Many of the boats do not have even basic safety kits. The inspection conducted by port department officials revealed that the boat was operating for the past seven years without licence.

Spiritual sea



An aerial view of Sangam, the confluence of River Ganga Yamuna and mythological Saraswati, as devotees gather to take a holy dip on the occasion of Mauni Amavasya during Magh Mela festival in Prayagraj on Friday. — PTI

Corona: 2 students under observation

Kerala health department issues a series of guidelines to check possible outbreak

GILVESTER ASSARY I DC THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, JAN. 24

Two Malayalee medical students who returned from China recently have been placed under observation in Kochi and Kottayam respectively for suspected coronavirus infection even as the Kerala health department issued a series of guidelines to check possible outbreak in the state.

The student who arrived in Kochi was admitted to the Ernakulam Medical College hospital after he showed symptoms of fever. He has been admitted to the isolation ward for close surveillance. He had earlier taken treatment at a private hospital which referred him to medical college hospital.

Health authorities said the samples containing his body fluids would be despatched to the National Institute of Virology, Pune, for laboratory investigations. He will continue to remain under observation till the hospital receives the reports from the Pune institute.

A girl who is pursuing

NURSE IN SAUDI TESTS POSITIVE FOR MERS VIRUS

DC CORRESPONDENT THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, JAN. 24

It has been confirmed that a Malayalee nurse in Saudi Arabia had tested positive for the MERS coronavirus. Dr Tarik Al Azraqi, chairman, Scientific Regional Infection Control Committee, Aseer Region, has confirmed that the nurse being treated at Aseer National Hospital is suffering from MERS-CoV & not 2019-NCoV (Wuhan).

Her condition is said to have improved and she has been shifted out from the ICU to a ward.

Of the 30 nurses of the hospital who were kept under observation, 23 have reported for duty.

her medical course in China has been kept under observation in Kottayam. She returned to Kerala recently. District

health authorities said that though she has not presented any symptoms, she has been kept under observation to comply with the treatment protocol. The authorities here said that 46 Indian students of Wuhan Medical College including Malayalees who are stranded there at the moment, are safe.

The health authorities directed all airports and seaports to continue with high surveillance in the wake of coronavirus outbreak in China. In the event of people returning from China or other places, presenting suspected symptoms coronavirus, they should be immediately taken to isolation wards set up in medical college hospitals in the state.

The authorities have directed that all persons coming from China should get in touch with district medical officers of the respective districts. The health department has also arranged an exclusive number Disha 1056 and land line 0471-2552056 for conveying any information related to suspected corona virus.

AIIMS, RML set up isolation wards

New Delhi, Jan. 24: The Centre-run All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) and the Ram Manohar Lohia (RML) Hospital in the national capital have set up isolation wards and kept beds ready for providing treatment to any suspected case of novel coronavirus infection.

Novel coronavirus (nCoV) is a large family of viruses that causes illnesses ranging from the common cold to acute respiratory syndromes, but the virus that has so far killed 25 people and affected 830 in China is a novel strain and not seen before.

It emerged from a seafood and animal market in China's Wuhan, and is suspected to have spread to as far as the United States. According to the World Health Organisation (WHO), the common symptoms of the novel coronavirus strain include respiratory symptoms such as fever, cough, shortness of breath and breathing difficulties.

The medical superintendent of RML Hospital Dr Minakshi Bhadraraj confirmed that an isolation ward has been set up to provide treatment or to keep un-

2 IN MUMBAI UNDER WATCH FOR VIRUS RISK

DC CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI, JAN. 24

Two persons who returned from China have been kept under observation at a Mumbai hospital for possible exposure to the novel coronavirus which has infected a large number of people in the neighbouring country.

As many as 1,789 passengers underwent thermal screening at the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport for the coronavirus since January 19 and two of them, who had travelled to China, were admitted to the civic-run Kasturba Hospital in the city as a precaution.

der observation any suspected cases of novel coronavirus infection.

AIIMS Director Dr Randeep Guleria said, "We have an isolation ward and we have beds kept ready for providing care and treatment for suspected coronavirus cases in Delhi or elsewhere in India."

EC tells SC parties must bar criminals

New Delhi, Jan. 24: The EC told the Supreme Court Friday that its 2018 direction asking poll candidates to declare their criminal antecedents in the media has not helped curb criminalisation of politics, and suggested that political parties should be asked not to give tickets to those with criminal background.

A bench of Justices R.F. Nariman and S. Ravindra Bhat asked the Election Commission (EC) to come up with a framework within one week which can help curb criminalisation of politics in nation's interest.

It asked BJP leader and advocate-petitioner Ashwini Upadhyay and the EC to sit together and come up with suggestions which would help curb criminalisation of politics. In September 2018, a five-judge Constitution bench had unanimously held that all candidates will have to declare their criminal antecedents to the EC before contesting polls and called for a wider publicity, through print and electronic media about antecedents of candidates. On October 10, 2018, the EC had

■ **A BENCH** of Justices R.F. Nariman and S. Ravindra Bhat asked the Election Commission (EC) to come up with a framework within one week which can help curb criminalisation of politics in nation's interest.

issued notification regarding the amended Form-26 and directions to political parties and candidates for publication of criminal antecedents.

However, the plea filed by Upadhyay alleged that the EC neither amended the Election Symbol Order, 1968 nor the model code of conduct (MCC) so the said notification has no legal sanction.

The EC neither published a list of leading newspapers-news channels for the purpose nor clarified the timing for declaration of criminal antecedents by candidates, it said.

This led to the candidates publishing the required information in newspapers and news channels that were not very popular and at odd hours, it added. — PTI

Periyar's statue vandalised in TN

SINDHIYA SAMUEL and P.A. JEBARAJ | DC CHENNAI, JAN. 24

Tension prevailed in Kanchipuram district of Tamil Nadu after a statue of Dravidar Kazhagam founder and social reformer Periyar was vandalised by unidentified miscreants in the early hours of Friday.

The disfiguring of the statue at Kaliyapettai village, Salavakkam comes amid a row over actor Rajinikanth's remarks about a procession in which the Dravidian stalwart participated nearly 50-year-ago.

People found the face and right hand of the Periyar Statue damaged on Friday morning and alerted the police who rushed to the spot and covered the bust with a tarpaulin sheet. Senior police officers visited the spot and conducted a preliminary enquiry. Following the incident, police security was beefed up in the locality and Salavakkam police launched an investigation into the incident.

Locals suspect the alleged involvement of Rajinikanth fans as Periyarist organisations are organising protests against Rajinikanth.

Government of India Public Enterprises Selection Board

invites applications for the post of

Director (Personnel)

in

SOUTH EASTERN COALFIELDS LIMITED

Last date of receipt of applications in

PESB is by 15.00 hours

on 26th MARCH, 2020.

For details login to website

<http://www.pesb.gov.in>

Advt. No. : 06/2020



SBI INFRA MANAGEMENT SOLUTIONS PVT. LTD., (SBIIMS), (WHOLLY OWNED SUBSIDIARY OF SBI) Amaravati Circle Office

2nd Floor, SBI Amaravati LHO Building, Gunfoundry, Abids, Hyderabad - 500 001. Ph: 040-23387364, 365

Provision of KEY INTEREST RATE DISPLAY BOARDS at All Branches of SBI, Andhra Pradesh

SBIIMS invites application from eligible, competent and resourceful contractors for participating in tender for the said work.

For details please visit website www.sbi.co.in under procurement news. Last date of submission of tender is 29.01.2020 by 03.00 PM. Corrigendum/Amendment, if any would be posted on the website only. Hence, prospective applicants are advised to visit website regularly for above purpose.

The Vice President



NATIONAL SCHOOL OF DRAMA

(An Autonomous Institute under Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India)

Bahawalpur House, Bhagwandas Road, New Delhi-110001



ADMISSION NOTICE - 2020

National School of Drama, a premier theatre institute of the country, invites applications for admission to Three Year Diploma Course in Dramatics for the academic year 2020-2023 commencing from July 2020. The online application forms will be available from 28 January 2020. Last date for submission of online application form is 28 February 2020.

Please visit our website **<http://www.onlineadmission.nsd.gov.in>** or **www.nsd.gov.in**, for complete information about admission process.

davp 09130/11/0050/1920

Director National School of Drama

Centre for Development of Advanced Computing

A Scientific Society of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India



(Advt. No.): C-DAC(HYD) 02 (Jan) 2020

Vacancies - 27

WALK-IN (25-Jan-2020)

C-DAC, Hyderabad looking for first class B.E./B.Tech/MCA or equivalent degree for the post of Project Engineer purely on contract basis.

Interested candidates may walk-in for WT / Interview with all certificates and all testimonials on **25 - Jan - 2020** at 9 a.m.

Venue: Plot No. 6 & 7, Hardware Park, Sy.No. 1/1, Srisailem Highway, Pahadi Shareef Via (Keshavagiri Post), Hyderabad-501510. Telangana (India)

For job profile, age, qualification, experience details of posts and how to apply - please visit **www.cdac.in**

davp 06110/11/0010/1920

INDIAN COUNCIL OF MEDICAL RESEARCH

Ansari Nagar, New Delhi

Walk-in-interview shall be conducted by the Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi from 8th to 11th February, 2020 for selection of Candidates for appointment to the regular posts of Assistant Professor, Associate Professor and Professors in the Bhopal Memorial Hospital & Research Centre (BMHRC), Bhopal. Details in regard to number of posts, pay scales in the pay matrix as per the VII Central Pay Commission, educational qualification, experience etc. may be accessed at **www.icmr.nic.in/www.bmhrc.org.in** Eligible and willing candidates may appear for the interview at Indian Council of Medical Research, V. Ramalingaswamy Bhawan, Ansari Nagar, New Delhi with necessary documents on the date and time as detailed at the websites mentioned above.

davp 17152/11/0027/1920

WRITE | ANGLE Cong leader cries foul over 2021 Census in south states

Tharoor: I won't be ex-writer

SUCHETA DASGUPTA | DC JAIPUR, JAN. 24

I am a former minister, and one day I will be a former MP, but I hope I will never be a former writer, said Shashi Tharoor on the second day of JLF 2020 in a freewheeling talk where he also reminisced about how he began his writing life as a campus journalist and got his byline published in almost every English publication, including *Eve's Weekly* and *Chandamama*, before leaving for the United States aged 19 for graduation.

The following year, he discovered that he had won the Radhika Kripalani Young Journalist Award and his father collected it on his behalf.

Tharoor regretted that he no longer has the bandwidth for writing fiction — for which you have to “not only create a world of illusion in your mind — a glass palace, so to say — but also inhabit it for a few hours every day and if you don't do that when you return you find cracks beginning to appear in the palace — and too often the whole palace is destroyed”.

At some point in his life, he would certainly write an autobiography: A “book of words” by him, with anecdotes attached to each of them, will be published by Penguin sometime in the first half of this year. On a political note, Tharoor



MP Shashi Tharoor at a discussion on the second day of JLF 2020 in Jaipur on Friday. — DC

objected to the government's directive to the finance commission to move away from the 1971 census to the 2011 census.

“And soon, we will have the 2021 census in which some southern states will actually lose population. The result is that about 40 Lok Sabha seats will disappear and be reborn in the north, and you can imagine what political consequence that's going to have,” he said.

Craft and process figured large among themes discussed today, with Man Booker winner Howard Jacobson slamming the literary subgenre of the Holocaust novel.

“I don't like concentration camp novels. I don't think they should be written. I don't like big themes. I feel you are cheating when you choose big themes. As writ-

DC AT JAIPUR LITERATURE FEST

ers, we should let the words do the work, create the meaning. I like making tragedies out of nothing — there should be nothing behind the words,” said Jacobson.

In a frank talk with Tharoor, Namita Gokhale, too, opened up about her process as well as her motivation for writing *Jaipur Journals*, her new book.

“People now see me more as a literary festival organiser which pushes my writer self to the background, and like Rudrani Rana, the character in my novel, I, too, sometimes feel angry about that. This book was a return to my roots as a writer in short snatches. The form of it was such that it would

allow me to go for brief, intense periods of writing in which I would complete a story, and then move to the next one the next time I returned,” Namita said.

The inspiration behind Rudrani Rana was, in fact, a man — an intelligent man — who, to her, could perhaps have been a great writer but became “too attached to the role of being an unsung genius rather than a recognised one”.

What is the writer's muse? It can be many things — ranging from cancer for Lisa Ray which has, for her, been a gateway to a new, more perceptive, world in which she finds energy and direction through Buddhist meditation to the urge to document lived social history for 2019 Man Booker International awardee Jokha Alharthi who, unfortunately, was trolled by the intelligentsia in Beirut — they resented the fact that despite their large literary heritage, they had lost the honour of being the first Arab to win this prize to a woman from Oman.

It can also be the need to do some life accounting at the end of completing a work which can form the purpose of writing, say, a memoir. Says Avi Shlaim, historian, who has completed one: “My mother is not a reliable source. She is completely narcissistic and that colours her narrative.”



New minister

North Korea confirms
Ri Son Gwon as new
foreign minister

IN BRIEF

Iran nuclear deal meet in February

Brussels: The remaining parties to the Iran nuclear deal will meet in Vienna next month, the EU's diplomatic chief announced Friday, after Britain, France and Germany launched a dispute process. The move gives the European members more time to try to find a way to persuade Iran to come back into line with the deal after Tehran made a series of steps away in protest at the US pulling out and reimposing sanctions.

Lanka to probe missing in war

Sri Lanka: Sri Lanka's presidency has said that death certificates for thousands of people missing presumed dead from the country's civil war will be given out only after proper investigations. The statement on Friday followed comments from President Gotabaya Rajapaksa that those missing were "actually dead" had caused anguish among relatives that the government would close the issue without addressing what happened to their loved ones. "After the necessary investigations, steps would be taken to issue a death certificate and the necessary support for the families to rebuild their lives," Rajapaksa's office said. It also noted that Rajapaksa in his earlier comments that emerged on Monday did not refer to the number of people reported to be missing since the end of the drawn-out Tamil separatist war in May 2009. But official figures show that more than 23,500 complaints in respect of missing people had been registered with the authorities. Among those were some 5,000 security personnel. The question of missing people has been a hot-button issue for successive Sri Lankan governments.

Duterte threatens to end US pact

Manila: Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has threatened to end a pact key to annual war games with American troops if the US does not restore the travel visa of an official who oversaw his drug war. It is the latest in a long line of Duterte's threats to shrink or sever ties with historical ally Washington, which have periodically followed criticism of his deadly narcotics crackdown. Duterte spoke after Ronald Dela Rosa, the former national police chief who is now a senator, said the US had cancelled his visa but did not tell him why. Dela Rosa was the first enforcer of Duterte's internationally condemned campaign, in which police say they have killed just over 5,500 alleged dealers and users. Human rights advocates say the toll is way higher.

Lunar Year: New spin in HK stir messages

Hong Kong, Jan. 24: Hong Kong's anti-government protests are putting a new spin on a Lunar New Year tradition. Every year, adults hand out red packets stuffed with cash to children and young, single adults. Messages printed on them generally convey wishes for prosperity and happiness, but artist Jason Kwan has designed rubber stamps for those who want to add a political message. Kwan was stamping the packets can be therapeutic for those who have taken part in the protests and offer a sense of participation. Many of the printed messages were drawn from the protest movement, expressing a desire for greater democracy or an investigation into alleged police abuses. Although a rubber stamp can convey relatively little in terms of details and information, I think the rubber stamps could evoke the memories of the Hong Kongers who have gone through this, Kwan said. The Lunar New Year holiday is the most important on the Chinese calendar and falls on Saturday this year. Hong Kong's protests began in June to oppose proposed extradition legislation that would have allowed Hong Kong residents to be sent to stand trial in mainland China. The bill was withdrawn, but the demonstrations widened to other demands, fueled by a distrust of the Communist Party-ruled central government in Beijing.

Trump can't be trusted: Democrat

Lead impeachment manager Schiff says Prez put his personal interests ahead of the nation

Washington, Jan. 24: Lead House impeachment manager Adam Schiff called dramatically for the Senate to remove President Donald Trump from office Thursday, saying the US leader cannot be trusted to put the country's interests ahead of his own. "The American people deserve a president they can count on, to put their interest first," said Schiff. His impassioned words capped a long day in which Democrats detailed Trump's illicit scheme to pressure Ukraine to help his 2020 reelection campaign. "You know, you can't trust this president to do what is right for this country. You can trust he will do what's right for Donald Trump," Schiff added. "He'll do it now. He's done it before. He'll do it for the next several months. He'll do it in the election if he's allowed to. This is why, if you find him guilty, you must find that he should be removed." "Because right matters. And truth matters. Otherwise we are lost." As the 100 senators sat at jurors and millions of Americans watched on television, House impeachment managers mustered

■ **US SENATORS** have been accused of falling asleep, playing games and breaking other rules during President Donald Trump's impeachment trial. Jim Risch and Jim Inhofe are among members who have apparently nodded off during the lengthy hearings.

scores of videos, internal documents and extensive witness testimony to lay out a strong case that the US leader abused his powers. Schiff's prosecution team detailed how Trump flagrantly undertook last year to force Kiev to help him tarnish his possible 2020 reelection rival, former vice president Joe Biden. "President Trump used the powers of his office to solicit a foreign nation to interfere in our elections for his own personal benefit," House Judiciary Committee Chair Jerry Nadler told the chamber. "Since President George Washington took office in



US President Donald Trump shared this photoshopped image of himself with Barack Obama on Instagram. Though the image has no caption it is suspected that Trump is referring to an earlier accusation of his that his predecessor used to spy on him.

1789, no president has abused his power in this way," Nadler said. "The president has repeatedly, flagrantly, vio-

lated his oath... The president's conduct is wrong. It is illegal. And it is dangerous." Over nine hours the Democrats methodically

dismantled Republican claims that Trump did nothing wrong. They left few doubts that Trump's sole motivation

ANTI-ABORTION RALLY TO SEE 1ST SITTING US PREZ

Washington: It was just four years ago that a political committee supporting one of Donald Trump's Republican rivals unveiled an ad slamming his views on abortion, complete with footage from a 1999 interview in which he declared, "I am pro-choice in every respect." Now, as he heads into the 2020 election, Donald Trump will become the first sitting president to address the March for Life, taking the stage Friday at the annual anti-abortion gathering that is one of the movement's highest profile and most symbolic events. It's Trump's latest nod to the white evangelical voters who have proven to be among his most loyal backers. —AP

in secretly freezing aid to Ukraine last July was to force Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky to announce one investiga-

tion into Biden and a second into an unsupported story that Kiev helped Democrats in the 2016 election. To puncture a key White House argument that the US constitution requires a specific crime to remove a president, they played old videos in which two of Trump's closest defenders, Republican Senator Lindsey Graham and storied criminal defense attorney Alan Dershowitz, said that abuse of power itself is a clear impeachable offense. And they detailed the extensive role of Trump's personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani in the scheme to pressure Zelensky, even while US intelligence and diplomatic chiefs disagreed with it. "Donald Trump chose Rudy Giuliani over his own intelligence agencies. He chose Rudy Giuliani over his own national security advisors... That makes him dangerous to our country," said Schiff, who leads the House Intelligence Committee. There were few signs that any of the Republican majority that Trump commands in the Senate would buy into the evidence and turn against him. —AFP

France not to go soft on Pak

**SRIDHAR KUMARASWAMI | DC
NEW DELHI, JAN. 24**

France is "determined to continue combating money laundering and terror financing, and will objectively evaluate, without any concession, Pakistan's actions" regarding Islamabad's obligations mandated by global anti-terror watchdog Financial Action Task Force (FATF) during the forthcoming FATF plenary meeting in Paris on February 16, French diplomatic sources told this newspaper on Friday. This is some relief for India amid worrying reports that during the FATF's just-concluded Asia/Pacific Group meeting at Beijing, several other global powers including the United States softened their positions on the issue of Pakistan's compliance to anti-terror measures. According to these reports, Islamabad has succeeded in convincing several countries that it

will comply with its obligations. There is also speculation that the US is going soft on Pakistan as it needs Islamabad's help to cut a deal with the Taliban in Afghanistan. Pakistan is currently on the FATF "greylist" and looks confident of escaping the FATF "blacklist" with the help of its all-weather friend China and other nations like Malaysia and Turkey. Amid mounting concerns in New Delhi, Pakistan is now also trying to get its name of the FATF's grey list and is apparently trying to enlist American support for this. The FATF's grey list comprises nations like Pakistan who are seen to have failed to fulfil their obligations to combat terror-financing. French diplomatic sources told this newspaper, "France is determined to continue combating money laundering and terror financing, and will objectively evaluate, without any concession, Pakistan's actions."

Pak govt rejects report on graft

**SHAFQAT ALI | DC
ISLAMABAD, JAN. 24**

Pakistan on Friday rejected Transparency International's annual Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) 2019. Special Assistant to Prime Minister on Information Dr Firdous Ashiq Awan said the government led by the Pakistan Tehrik-e-Insaf (PTI) believes the report is biased. Speaking at a news conference in Islamabad, the special assistant said the

Transparency International should unveil its sources from where the data was gathered. Earlier, Pakistan's ranking had dropped to 120 out of 180 countries with a worse score of 32 out of 100, according to the annual CPI released by the Transparency International. In the previous report, Pakistan scored 33 out of 100, which implies that no improvement could be observed in terms of eradication of corruption from the state.



Followers of Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr gather in Baghdad on Friday. Supporters of the radical cleric gathered in central Baghdad for a rally to demand that American troops leave the country amid heightened anti-US sentiment after a drone strike ordered by Washington earlier this month killed a top Iranian general. —AP

Iraqi protesters call for US troops exit

Baghdad, Jan. 24: Thousands rallied in Baghdad on Friday to demand that American troops leave the country, though their numbers fell short of the "million-man" march called for by an influential Shiite cleric. The rally came amid heightened anti-US sentiment after a US drone strike earlier this month killed a top Iranian general in the Iraqi capital. Since mid-morning, large crowds gathered on the Muslim day of prayers as loudspeakers blasted "No, no America!" at a central square in Baghdad. A child held up a poster reading, "Death to America. Death to Israel." But by the afternoon the rally had failed to reach

the critical numbers called for by radical cleric Muqtada al-Sadr. Apparently seeking to show control, al-Sadr's supporters did not engage in altercations with security forces or target the separate, anti-government protests in neighboring Tahrir Square, a possibility feared by activists in the lead-up to Friday's march. Officials and experts said the rally was the cleric's attempt to capitalise on brewing anti-American feeling and show he had the upper-hand on the Iraqi street as negotiations among political elites over who should be the next prime minister stumble on. In his weekly Friday sermon, Grand Ayatollah Ali

al-Sistani, Iraq's most revered Shiite cleric, called on political parties stop stalling and move the talks forward. "The formation of the new government is constitutionally long overdue, it is necessary for the various parties concerned to cooperate," al-Sistani said in a sermon delivered via a representative, "it is an important step toward resolving the current crisis." Roads and bridges leading to the heavily fortified Green Zone, the seat of Iraq's government and home to several foreign embassies, including the US Embassy, were blocked off by concrete barriers. Iraqi security forces stood guard, blocking

access to the gates to the zone. There was a heavy security presence as the protesters, mostly Shiites hailing from the capital but also Iraq's southern provinces, walked on foot to an assembly point in Baghdad's Jadriya neighborhood, waving Iraqi flags and wearing symbolic white shrouds. Al-Sadr, whose party won the most seats in the May 2018 parliamentary elections, had called for a "million-man" demonstration to demand the withdrawal of American troops following the US drone strike near Baghdad's airport that killed top Iranian general Qassem Soleimani and senior Iraqi militia commander Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis. —AP

KUWAIT SUMMONS IRAN ENVOY

Kuwait city, Jan. 24 Kuwait's foreign ministry summoned Iran's ambassador Friday after a high-level Iranian official implicated the emirate in the US drone attack that killed top general Qasem Soleimani, official news agency KUNA reported. Deputy Foreign Minister Khaled al-Jarallah expressed Kuwait's "amazement" at the claim that one of its air bases had been among those used to carry out the Jan.3 attack, KUNA said. It said he was referring to a statement by Brigadier-General Amirali Hajizadeh, aerospace commander of Iran's Revolutionary Guards.

DIVORCE | DEAL

■ **No reporters or photographers were allowed to witness the low key ceremony**

EU chiefs sign Brexit deal ahead of House vote

Brussels, Jan. 24: British Prime Minister Boris Johnson was to receive Britain's EU divorce agreement Friday after Brussels' top two officials signed it at a closed door ceremony in the dead of night. Officials from both sides accompanied the document across the Channel to London, where Johnson was to add his signature to those of EU chiefs Ursula von der Leyen and Charles Michel. Number 10 said that Johnson would sign it later in the day then return it to Brussels, where the EU will make a copy for each party.

Charles Michel and I have just signed the Agreement on the Withdrawal of the UK from the EU, opening the way for its ratification by the European Parliament

VON DER LEYEN, European Commission president

On Wednesday next week, the text will go to the European Parliament for ratification and on Thursday diplomats from

the EU member states will approve the deal in writing. Then, on Friday, January 31, Britain spends its last day in the EU before leaving the bloc at 2300 GMT as clocks strike midnight in Brussels. "Charles Michel and I have just signed the Agreement on the Withdrawal of the UK from the EU, opening the way for its ratification by the European Parliament," European Commission president von der Leyen tweeted. In a separate tweet, European Council president Michel said: "Things will inevitably change but our

friendship will remain. We start a new chapter as partners and allies." The former Belgian premier, whose council represents EU member governments, added, in French: "I'm keen to write this new page together." Official photographs of the official signing ceremony, conducted before dawn in the European Council's headquarters in Brussels, showed chief EU Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier looking on. No reporters or photographers were allowed to witness the low key ceremony, despite news agencies offering to organise a pool. —AFP



Britain's Prince Charles at the Russian Orthodox Church of Mary Magdalene on the Mount of Olives on Friday. —AFP



Gore's take

Cost of plastic bottles doesn't reflect the price being paid, says former US vice president and environmentalist Al Gore

IN BRIEF
Oz to probe crash that killed US crew

Sydney: Police investigators will join a probe into the crash of a firefighting plane that killed three American crew helping to battle Australia's devastating bushfires, officials said Friday. The Hercules C-130 water-bombing aircraft erupted in a fireball on impact in the Snowy Mountains on Thursday as firefighters raced to tackle another outbreak of the deadly blazes. Hazardous materials specialists were working to secure the crash site before air transport safety investigators can begin sifting through the evidence with police support. Authorities said three men aged 42, 43 and 45 were believed to be on board at the time of the crash, which left no survivors.

Storm Gloria ebbs, toll 11

Barcelona: The death toll from a violent storm that has wrought havoc across huge swathes of Spain's eastern and southern coastline rose to 11 on Thursday, with rescue workers still searching for four people. The latest victim was a 50-year-old man who was fishing in coastal Ametlla de Mar, according to civil protection authorities in the northeast Catalonia region. Earlier, emergency services found the body of a man inside a vehicle in Cabaces, 60 kilometres (37 miles) northwest of the port city of Tarragona and a local official reported the death of a 75-year-old woman whose house collapsed because of heavy rain in Alcoi, a town in the eastern Alicante region.

2 jumbos escape from circus

Russia: Residents of Yekaterinburg were flabbergasted to see a couple of elephants wandering the snowy streets of Russia's third-largest city after they escaped from a circus. Unreceptive to attempts to bring her back, one of the female elephants crossed a busy street and headed to a residential building to roll and cavort in the snow on Thursday. One man who tried to stop her by holding on to her trunk was pushed across the street, his feet sliding on the ice. The local circus said the two elephants — Karla and Ranni — belonged to an Italian company that ran a show in Yekaterinburg during the New Year holidays.

DABBA, HARTAL, ENTER OXFORD DICTIONARY

New Delhi, Jan. 24: The latest edition of the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary features 26 new Indian English words, including Aadhaar, chawl, dabba, hartal and shaadi. The 10th edition of the dictionary, which was launched on Friday, has 384 Indian English words and incorporates over 1,000 new words such as chatbot, fake news and microplastic. The dictionary focuses on language change and its evolution through the years, and has ensured that the language and examples used in the new edition are relevant and up to date with the times, Oxford University Press (OUP) said. The new edition comes with interactive online support through the Oxford Learner's Dictionaries website and an app. The website includes advanced features such as audio-video tutorials, video walkthroughs, self-study activities and enhanced iWriter and iSpeaker tools. "This edition has 26 new Indian English words of which 22 figure in the printed dictionary. The other four are in the digital version," said Fathima Dada, Managing Director (Education Division) at OUP. Some of other new Indian words in the dictionary are auntie (while aunty already figures in the English dictionary, auntie is an Indianism), bus stand, deemed university, FIR, non-veg, redressal, tempo, tube light, veg and videograph. The four new Indian English words in the online version of the dictionary are current (for electricity), looter, looting and upazila (one of the areas that a district is divided into for administration purposes). According to OUP, the new edition provides better, more accurate and understandable definitions with examples, usage notes and additional resources to help the learner use the right word in the right context.

China rushes to construct new hospital
Chinese govt to build 1,000-bed hospital in 10 days to treat coronavirus in Wuhan city

Beijing, Jan. 24: China on Friday added four more cities to a transport ban around the epicentre of a deadly virus, bringing the number affected by the shutdown to over 41 million as authorities scramble to control the disease. Authorities in Xianning, Xiaogan, Enshi and Zhijiang cities — all located in Hubei province where the virus first emerged — said public transport services including train stations would be closed. Some cities also announced the closure of entertainment venues including theatres and karaoke bars. The country is rushing to build a new hospital in a staggering 10 days to treat patients at the epicentre of a deadly virus outbreak that has stricken hundreds of people, state media reported Friday. The facility in the central city of Wuhan is expected to be in use by February 3 to serve a rising number of patients infected by a coronavirus that has left at least 26 people dead and millions on lockdown in an effort to curb the spread. Dozens of excavators and trucks were filmed working on the site by state broadcaster CCTV. It will have a capacity of 1,000 beds spread over 25,000 square metres, the official Xinhua news agency said. Construction began as reports surfaced of bed shortages in hospitals designated as dealing with the outbreak, which has now infected 830 people across China.

Xinhua said the new facility is aimed at "alleviating the shortage of medical treatment resources and improving the ability to care for patients". In 2003 China erected a hospital on Beijing's rural outskirts in barely a week to cater to a rapidly rising number of patients suffering from SARS, or Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, which killed 349 people in mainland China and 299 in Hong Kong in 2002-2003. Xiaotangshan Hospital consisted of prefabricated structures and *Xinhua* reported Friday that Wuhan was building the new facility based on the same model. The city of over 11 million people has been centralising its treatment of the new virus by isolating patients in 61 clinics and designated hospitals. Chinese officials have said the virus likely originated from wild animals at a seafood market in the city but it has since spread to several countries around Asia and beyond. — *Agencies*

■ **THE VIRUS** has all but shut down China's biggest holiday of the year, the Lunar New Year, which falls on Saturday. Instead of family reunions or sightseeing trips, many of the country's 1.4-billion people are hunkering down as the nation scrambles to prevent the virus from spreading further



This aerial photo on Friday shows excavators at the construction site of a new hospital being built to treat patients from a deadly virus outbreak in Wuhan, China. Authorities are rushing to build a new hospital in a staggering 10 days to treat patients. — *AFP*

SOUTH KOREA CONFIRMS SECOND CASE

Seoul, Jan. 24: South Korea on Friday confirmed its second case of the SARS-like virus as concerns mount about a wider outbreak. Several nations including the US have stepped up checks on airport passengers to detect the coronavirus, which first emerged in the central Chinese city of Wuhan. The virus has caused alarm in China and abroad because of its genetic similarities to Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), which killed nearly 650 people across mainland China and Hong Kong in 2002-2003. On Friday, Seoul's health ministry said a South Korean man in his 50s started experiencing symptoms while working in Wuhan on Jan 10. He was tested upon returning to the country earlier this week, and was confirmed to be South Korea's second case of the virus, the ministry added. "The patient was adequately aware of the situation in Wuhan... and cooperated well," the ministry said in a statement. — *AFP*

Fever-hit patients fret in Wuhan

Wuhan, Jan. 24: Trapped in a Chinese city at the centre of a deadly viral outbreak, residents who should have been celebrating Lunar New Year lined up to have their temperatures taken by medical staff wearing full-body protective suits. At hospitals across Wuhan in central Hubei province, tense patients with high temperatures turned out in large numbers to get checked as the death toll rose to 26 and the number of cases topped 800, most of them in the city. The streets were otherwise empty and quiet on Friday, with people ordered not to leave the city and public events cancelled. "I have a fever and cough, so I'm worried that I'm infected," a 35-year-old man surnamed Li said at

■ **At hospitals across Wuhan, tense patients with high temperatures turned out in large numbers to get checked as the death toll rose to 26 and the number of cases topped 800, most of them in the city. The streets were otherwise empty and quiet on Friday.**

the Wuhan Fifth Hospital. "I don't know the results (of tests) yet. I'm a bit worried." Most of the people at the hospital were middle-aged or older, and were being given mercury thermometers on arrival. After taking their temperatures themselves from their mouth or armpit, jittery patients handed the instruments back to medical staff decked in full white protective suits with a hood,

gloves, face mask and goggles. The thermometers were briefly checked, then dropped in a large metal box. One nurse took a thermometer from a middle-aged woman, pausing to examine the reading, before quickly turning back to the patient and instructing her to "go and see the doctor". At another hospital, 42-year-old Huang Wei said he was worried the situation would worsen if sick people stood next to each other, and that the city of 11 million people would not have the medical capacity to cope with a bigger outbreak. "The medical treatment is not sufficient, the time is too long, and cross-infection may be caused by queueing in the hospital," he said. — *AFP*

"This is what we are worried about." Patients waited for several hours for temperature checks at the Red Cross hospital. Many could be seen sitting on stools because the queue was so long. Hubei governor Jiang Chaoliang said in a meeting Friday that hospitals must make sure patients are "admitted in time," according to a statement on the government's website. Wuhan must also "make every effort" to increase isolation places and beds, Jiang said. All staff at both hospitals were in full-body protection, but some of the patients waiting to be checked were not even wearing masks — in defiance of an order by city authorities. — *AFP*

VIRUS NOT YET GLOBAL HEALTH EMERGENCY: WHO

Geneva, Jan. 24: A deadly virus outbreak in China and beyond does not yet constitute a global emergency, the World Health Organization said on Thursday, urging China to keep its lockdown of some 20 million people "short". "I am not declaring a public health emergency of international concern today," WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus told reporters after a two-day emergency meeting in Geneva on the virus. He stressed though that the decision to hold off on issuing the declaration used for the gravest epidemics "should not be taken as a sign that WHO does not think the situation is serious." "This is an emergency in China, but it has not yet become a global health emergency," he told reporters in Geneva on Thursday. — *AFP*

JAPANESE BACK FROM WUHAN TESTS POSITIVE

Tokyo, Jan. 24: Japan's health ministry said on Friday it had confirmed the country's second case of a novel coronavirus strain, in a man who travelled from the Chinese city of Wuhan. In a statement, the ministry said the man in his 40s was a resident of the Chinese city where the outbreak began and arrived in Japan on January 19. He reported having had a fever for several days before his arrival but said that his condition had stabilised by the time of his arrival in Japan. On January 22, he reported a fever and he is now in a Tokyo hospital receiving treatment, the ministry said. The statement added that the man denied having visited the market in Wuhan identified as the source of the outbreak. — *AFP*

US investigating second suspected case

Houston, Jan. 24: Authorities in Texas are investigating a second suspected case on US soil of a deadly Chinese virus, namely a college student who had recently returned from the city at the heart of the outbreak, officials said. Brazos County, just northwest of Houston, "is investigating a suspected case of the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)," its health authority wrote in a statement on Facebook. "The patient traveled from Wuhan, China, where the coronavirus originated," it added. The patient's age is somewhere between 20 and 30 and they returned to the United States, where they are attending Texas A&M University, days before health screenings began at airports on January 15, local health official Eric Wilke told reporters. "The person

■ **If the case is confirmed, the patient would be the second person to be infected with the pathogen on US soil**

presented to an area emergency department yesterday mostly out of concern," said Wilke, adding that they were now being kept isolated at home while testing was performed, with the result likely to arrive over the next day or two. The patient had "mild upper respiratory symptoms" including cough and congestion and appeared to be improving. Such symptoms are common in the middle of winter flu season, but the patient was being screened further on the basis of their travel history. A blood sample has been

sent to the headquarters of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta, Georgia, which should arrive late Thursday or early Friday, with a result expected within 24 hours after that. If the case is confirmed, the patient would be the second person to be infected with the pathogen on US soil after a man in his 30s near Seattle reported himself to authorities on January 19. — *AFP*

WOMAN | POWER
Young activist had told the WEF to see an immediate end to investment in fossil fuels

Greta tears into corporate, political elite

Davos (Switzerland), Jan. 24: Teenage activist Greta Thunberg on Friday said activists' calls on the corporate and political elite at Davos to seriously fight climate change had been "completely ignored", but vowed not to be subdued by stinging personal criticism from the Trump administration. The 50th edition of the annual Swiss Alps forum wrapped up with the menace of climate change hammered into the minds of participants but doubt over whether any concrete action would be forthcoming. Thunberg had told the World Economic Forum (WEF) she wanted to see an immediate end to investment in fossil fuels. "Before we came here we had a few demands for this WEF. Of course these demands have been completely ignored. We expected nothing less," Thunberg told reporters in the ski resort on the last day of the conference. "As long as the science is being ignored — as the facts are not being taken into account — and as long as the situation is not being treated as a crisis, then world and business leaders can, of course, continue to ignore the situation. They do not have to do anything as they are not being held



Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg at a 'Fridays for Future' demo on the final day of the 50th annual meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos on Friday — *AP*

accountable," she lamented before joining other young people in one of her regular "Fridays for Future" protests in Davos. — *AFP*

■ **Whole communities are going to be at increasing risk,** said Andrew Harper, special adviser for climate action at UNHCR, praising the UN Human Rights Committee's finding as a "wake-up call". "We cannot afford to be reactive... We as UNHCR are looking to work with states to see how we can mitigate the impact of what is already evident

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United Nations agency hails report on climate refugees

Geneva, Jan. 24: The UN refugee agency praised on Friday an expert panel's finding that sending migrants back to countries severely hit by climate change could breach their human rights. "Whole communities are going to be at increasing risk," said Andrew Harper, special adviser for climate action at UNHCR, praising the UN Human Rights Committee's finding as a "wake-up call". "We cannot afford to be reactive... We as UNHCR are looking to work with states to see how we can mitigate the impact of what is already evident

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LOT NEEDS TO BE DONE IN CHINA, INDIA: MNUCHIN

Davos, Jan. 24: US Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said on Friday that China and India are among the countries where a lot of improvement is required on the environmental front. Speaking at the WEF 2020, he said, "We are not trying to minimise the importance of climate issues. There are way too many people in developing world without access to electricity and we need to keep that in mind too." — *PTI*

quick BITES

INDICATORS		%
Sensex	41,613.19	0.55
Nifty 50	12,248.30	0.56
S&P 500*	3,310.75	-0.44
Dollar (₹)	71.36	0.05
Pound Sterling (₹)	93.83	-0.07
Euro (₹)	78.77	-0.48
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	40,780.96	0.23
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	60.63	-1.41
IN 10-Yr bond yield	6.578	-0.019
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	1.722	-0.017

* As of 9:30 pm IST

Forex reserves touch record \$462.16 billion

The country's foreign exchange reserves rose \$943 million to touch a life-time high of \$462.16 billion in the week ended January 17, RBI data showed. In the previous week, the reserves had increased by \$58 mn to \$461.21 bn. Foreign currency assets rose by \$867 mn to \$428.45 bn. Gold reserves increased \$70 mn to \$28.56 bn.

Govt to repeal Plantation Labour Act



The Centre is going to repeal the Plantation Labour Act (PLA), 1951 that makes it mandatory for planters to provide workers non-cash benefits such as housing and drinking water, chairman of the PM EAC Bibek Debroy said in Kolkata. "The government is going to repeal the Plantation Labour Act besides bringing in a new code on wages," Debroy said.

Patanjali eyes ₹35K cr turnover next year

Patanjali group, which has acquired Ruchi Soya, expects to have a turnover of Rs 35,000-Rs 40,000 crore in the next financial year and to become the largest company in the FMCG sector in the coming years, replacing market leader HUL, said Yoga Guru Ramdev. Patanjali expects a joint turnover of up to Rs 25,000 crore in the current year.

ED issues fresh summons in Air Asia PMLA case

The Enforcement Directorate has issued fresh summons to senior executives of Air Asia airlines, including CEO Tony Fernandes, for questioning next month in connection with a money laundering case, officials said. The ED has asked Fernandes to appear before the investigating officer in New Delhi on Feb. 5 and his deputy and former deputy group CEO Bo Lingam on Feb. 3.

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■ Total shortfall for current fiscal could be about ₹3 L cr Country faces first fall in direct taxes in 2 decades

ABHIRUP ROY
MUMBAI, JAN. 24

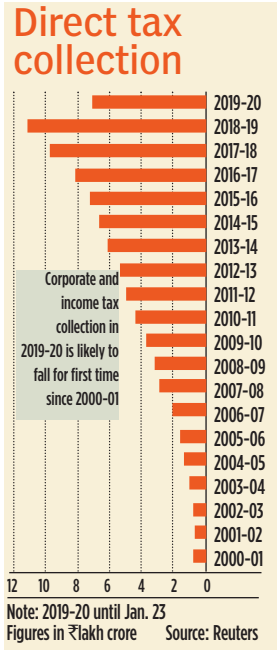
India's corporate and income tax collection for the current year is likely to fall for the first time in at least two decades, several senior tax officials told Reuters, amid a sharp fall in economic growth and cut in corporate tax rates.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government was targeting direct tax collection of Rs 13.5 lakh crore (\$189 billion) for the year ending March 31—a 17 per cent increase over the prior fiscal year. But a sharp decline in demand has stung businesses, forcing companies to cut investment and jobs, denting tax collections and prompting the government to forecast 5 per cent growth for this fiscal year—the slowest in 11 years.

The tax department had managed to collect only Rs 7.3 lakh crore as of January 23, more than 5.5 per cent below the amount collected by the same point last year, said a senior tax official.

After collecting taxes from companies in advance for the first three quarters, officials typically garner about 30-35 per cent of annual direct taxes in the final three months, data from the past three years shows.

But eight senior tax officials interviewed by



Reuters said despite their best efforts, direct tax collections this financial year were likely to fall below the 11.5 trillion collected in 2018-19.

"Forget the target. This will be the first time that we'll see a fall in direct tax collection ever," said a tax official in New Delhi.

He estimates that direct tax collections for this year could end up roughly 10 per cent below fiscal 2019.

The finance ministry did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Direct taxes typically



account for about 80 per cent of the government's projections for annual revenue, and the shortfall may leave the government needing to boost borrowing to meet expenditure commitments.

The tax officials also say that a surprise cut in the headline corporate tax rate last year aimed at wooing manufacturers and boosting investment in Asia's third-biggest economy is another reason behind the sluggish tax collections.

"We'll be very happy if we can even break even with what we collected last year," said another senior tax official in the financial capital, Mumbai, the biggest tax generator, accounting for about a third of revenues from direct taxes. "But given the state of the economy, I'm not too hopeful."

The concerns are exacerbated by a gaping shortfall in the goods and services tax (GST) that is expected to further hurt total collections.

The total tax collection shortfall for the current fiscal year could be about Rs 3 lakh crore—the highest shortfall ever recorded.

"With revenue sources stretched, we're not assuming any rise in the capex bill in FY21," Pranju Bhandari, chief economist at HSBC in India, said in a note, adding she expects the government to resort to higher borrowing from the market.

The government is likely to keep the fiscal deficit under 3.8 per cent of gross domestic product, sources told Reuters earlier this month, while letting it slip from its earlier set target of 3.3 per cent for the year.

Tax officials have been stuck between the increasing number of complaints of harassment from Indian businesses, dubbed "tax terrorism" by Indian media, and the government's push to meet the target.

The government asked its officials at a meeting on December 20 to identify and initiate stern action against wilful tax evaders, sources said.

"The message from the top is very clear—go all out and collect," said a senior tax official in Kolkata.

—Reuters

Animal spirits perk up

ANIRBAN NAG
NEW DELHI, JAN. 24

India's economy appears to be shaking off a slump, as activity in the services and manufacturing sectors expanded for a second straight month in December.

The needle on a gauge measuring so-called animal spirits signaled the economy may be taking a turn for the better, as five of the eight high-frequency indicators tracked by Bloomberg News came in stronger last month. The dial was last at the current position in August.

"Animal spirits" is a term coined by British economist John Maynard Keynes to refer to investors' confidence in taking action, and the gauge uses the three-month weighted average to smooth out volatility in the single-month numbers.

The nascent recovery would need a helping hand, with expectations building that finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman will provide some stimulus when she presents the budget February 1.

Here are details of the dashboard:

Business Activity: The dominant services index rose to the highest level in five months in December as improving new work orders helped boost activity. The seasonally adjusted Markit India Services PMI index climbed to 53.3 from 52.7 in November.

India's manufacturing PMI also rose – to 52.7 from 51.2 a month ago – boosted by the fastest increase in new orders since July.

"The relative stability in macro indicators over the

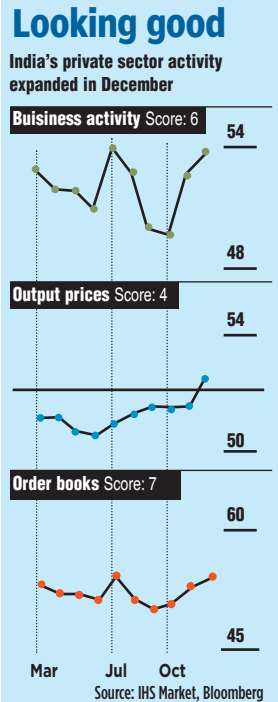
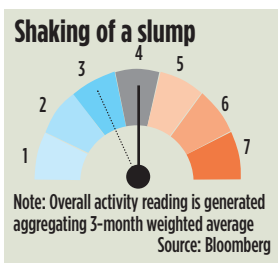
Sightseeing

Chinese travellers took a record 108 million trips outside the mainland in 2019

Source: Euromonitor International/Bloomberg

Bajaj-Triumph combo plans first bike in 2022

Bajaj Auto and iconic British motorcycle brand Triumph have started developing new mid-capacity motorcycles in the 200-800 cc range priced below ₹2 lakh that will be launched in 2022 to challenge the dominance of heavyweight Royal Enfield. This is the first time in its 118-year history that Triumph has collaborated with another company. The 200-800 cc bike market size in India is estimated at over 1 million units annually.



past two months suggests that the worst is behind, but the recovery is likely to be prolonged," said Teresa John, an economist at Nirmal Bang Equities in Mumbai. "Still, sluggish growth and rising inflation indicate that India may well remain in stagflation for most of 2020."

Exports: Exports remained a laggard, falling 1.8 per cent in December from

Ahead of budget, Das calls for structural reforms

FC BANKING BUREAU
MUMBAI, JAN. 24

Ahead of the Union Budget next week, Reserve Bank Governor Shaktikanta Das reiterated that monetary policy "has its own limits" and the government will have to use fiscal measures and structural reforms to

revive demand and growth.

"Structural reforms and fiscal measures may have to be continued and further activated to provide a durable push to demand and boost growth," Das said on Friday, addressing the students of St Stephen's College, Delhi, his alma mater.

Das also listed out some of the priority areas where structural reforms are necessary and if carried out in earnest can act as potential growth drivers and through backward and forward linkages can give significant push to growth.

He called for prioritising food processing industries,

tourism, e-commerce and startups and also making the domestic economy a part of the global value chain.

Das urged the states to play an important role by enhancing capex that has high multiplier effect, and can boost the Centre's focus on infrastructure

spending.

Admitting that correctly assessing the current economic situation and thus formulating the necessary monetary policy is a challenge now, he said this is why monetary policy around the world is in a state of flux today.

"One of the major chal-

lenges for central banks is the assessment of the current economic situation. The precise estimation of key parameters such as potential output and output gaps on a real time basis is a challenging task, although they are crucial for the conduct of monetary policy.

Bank of Baroda reports ₹1,407-crore loss

FC BUREAU
MUMBAI, JAN. 24

State-owned lender Bank of Baroda (BoB) on Friday reported a net loss of Rs 1,406.95 crore for the December 2019 quarter on higher provisioning for bad loans.

The bank had reported a profit of Rs 736.68 crore in the preceding September quarter and Rs 471.25 crore in the year-ago quarter.

BoB, which merged Dena Bank and Vijaya Bank with itself earlier this year, said its total income increased to Rs 21,809.08 crore during the quarter as against Rs 14,562.85 crore in the year-ago quarter.

The bank, in a stock exchange filing, said its net interest income grew 9 per cent to Rs 7,128 crore.

"Bank's provisions rose

Ultratech net soars 80%

Mumbai, Jan 24: Ultratech on Friday reported a consolidated net income of Rs 712 crore for the December quarter, up 80 per cent from Rs 396 crore in the year-ago period. Consolidated revenue of the Birla Group flagship slipped to Rs 10,176 crore from Rs 10,294 crore, the company said in a statement.

Indian Bank profit up 62%

Chennai, Jan 24: Indian Bank on Friday reported 62.3 per cent jump in net profit at Rs 247.16 crore for December quarter over a reduction in bad loans, from Rs 152.26 crore a year ago. Net NPAs as a percentage of assets reduced to 3.5 per cent from 4.42 per cent.

54 per cent resulting in net loss of Rs 1,407 crore for the quarter ending December 2019," the lender said.

Its gross non-performing

assets (NPA) ratio declined to 10.43 per cent at December-end 2019 against 10.91 per cent by the end of same quarter a year ago.

Soros rues rise of nationalism in India

Davos, Jan. 24: Billionaire investor George Soros, known for his outspoken liberal views, has criticised virtually all economic powers of the world, including the US and China, for being ruled by "would-be or actual dictators" and named India among the countries where nationalism is making further headway.

US financier and philanthropist on Thursday also pledged \$1 billion for a new university network project to battle the erosion of civil society the world over. Speaking at the WEF,

Soros said humanity was at a turning point. "We live at a transformational moment in history. The survival of open societies is endangered and we face an even greater crisis: climate change," said the Hungarian-born billionaire.

The 89-year old, who has been a big donor for Democrats, said the strongest powers, the US, China and Russia, have "remained in the hands of would-be or actual

dictators and the ranks of authoritarian rulers continued to grow".

Soros said his hopes crashed badly and nationalism, far from being reversed, made further headway.

"The biggest and most frightening setback occurred in India where a democratically elected Narendra Modi is creating

a Hindu nationalist state, imposing punitive measures on Kashmir; a semi-autonomous Muslim region, and threatening to deprive millions of Muslims of their citizenship," he claimed.

He described the plan of the Open Society University Network (OSUN) as "the most important project of my life" and would be an international platform for teaching and research that existing universities all over the world would be able to join.

—Agencies

Lalit raids unearth ₹1K cr

New Delhi, Jan 24: The Income-Tax Department's searches on the Bharat Hotels group, that runs the chain of Lalit Hotels, has led to the detection of "undisclosed" foreign assets of more than Rs 1,000 crore, apart from domestic tax evasion of more than Rs 35 crore which may lead to consequences under the Black Money Act, 2015, as also, action under the I-T Act respectively," the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) said.

"Foreign assets include investment in a hotel in UK, immovable properties in UK and UAE and

functions under its CMD Jyotsna Suri.

"The investigation has successfully lifted the veil, leading to detection of undisclosed foreign assets of more than Rs 1,000 crore, apart from domestic tax evasion of more than Rs 35 crore which may lead to consequences under the Black Money Act, 2015, as also, action under the I-T Act respectively," the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) said.

"Foreign assets include investment in a hotel in UK, immovable properties in UK and UAE and

deposits with foreign banks," it said.

The CBDT said the group is a "leading member of the hospitality industry, running a hotel abroad and a chain of luxury hotels under a prominent brand name situated at various locations in India".

"The search operation has so far resulted in seizure of unaccounted assets valued at Rs 24.93 crore that includes Rs. 71.5 lakh in cash, jewellery worth Rs 23 crore and expensive watches valued at Rs 1.2 crore," the statement said.

—PTI

SHORT TAKES



Shoaib Malik

Malik leads Pak's victory vs Bangla

Lahore: Recalled Shoaib Malik smashed a solid half-century to anchor Pakistan's five-wicket win over Bangladesh in the first Twenty20 International in Lahore on Friday. Malik's 45-ball 58 not out for his eighth Twenty20 fifty as Pakistan overhauled a modest 142-run target in 19.3 over to take a 1-0 lead in the three-match series. Bangladesh had managed 141-5 in their 20 overs with openers Mohammad Naim scoring 41-ball 43 and Tamim Iqbal hit 34-ball 39 as Pakistan's three-man pace attack kept them in check on a flat Gadaffi stadium pitch. The win further consolidated Pakistan's chances of hanging on to their world number one ranking in the shortest format. If they lose any of the remaining matches — on Saturday and Monday, also in Lahore, Australia will replace them at the top. Lahore's foggy weather prompted Pakistan Cricket Board to start the match at 2pm (0900 GMT) but it failed to attract more than 10,000 people in a capacity of 24,000 stadium. — PTI

Atharva and Ravi script India win

Bloemfontein: Left-arm spinner Atharva Ankekar showed big heart while leg-spinner Ravi Bishnoi was all guile in India's 44-run win against New Zealand as they set-up a quarter-final date with Australia in the ICC U-19 World Cup here on Friday. During a rain-hit final group A league encounter reduced to 23-overs per-side, India scored 115 for no loss in 23 overs with openers Yashasvi Jaiswal (57 not out off 72 balls) and Divyansh Saxena (52 not off 62 balls) hitting half-centuries. New Zealand needed 193 as per DLS method calculations but managed only 147 in 21 overs as India emerged group toppers with six points. Left-arm orthodox Ankekar, who played through pain with a fractured finger on his right hand, had remarkable figures of 3 for 28 in five overs with some accurate wicket-to-wicket bowling. — PTI

BRIEF SCORES
India 115 for no loss in 23 overs (Divyansh Saxena 52 n.o., Yashasvi Jaiswal 57 n.o) bt New Zealand (DLS target 193 in 23 overs) (Rhys Mariu 42; Fergus Lellman 31, Ravi Bishnoi 4/30, Atharva Ankekar 3/28).

CRAWLEY HITS MAIDEN FIFTY, SA FIGHT BACK

Johannesburg: Zak Crawley's maiden Test half-century gave England a solid foundation before South Africa struck back on the first day of the fourth and final Test at the Wanderers Stadium on Friday. Holding an unbeatable 2-1 series lead, England were 192 for four when bad light ended a rain-shortened day. England's youthful opening pair of Crawley (66) and Dom Sibley (39) shared England's first century opening partnership since 2016 and blunted South Africa's fast bowlers on a pitch which both captains expected to be challenging for batsmen. Crawley, 21, and Sibley, 24, put on 107 before Sibley was caught down the leg side by wicketkeeper Quinton de Kock to give new cap Beuran Hendricks his first Test wicket. South Africa claimed three more wickets to have England at a slightly precarious 157 for four but captain Joe Root and Ollie Pope took the tourists safely through to the close in deteriorating light. Rain prevented any play before lunch and the South African bowling was surprisingly unthreatening when it did get under way. Both teams opted for an all-seam attack on a pitch which usually favours fast bowlers but there was no discernible swing or sharp movement off the surface as England's openers scored at better than three runs an over. England were 100 for no wicket at tea but South Africa changed their tactics after the interval, bowling more short-pitched deliveries. — AFP

Brief scores: England 192/4 in 54.2 overs (Z. Crawley 66, D. Sibley 44, J. Rose 25; V. Philander 1/37) vs South Africa

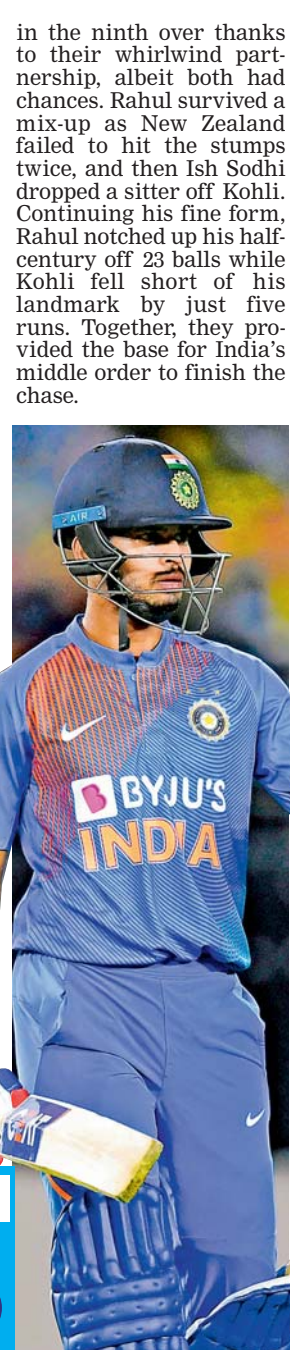
Eden spark

Shreyas fireworks, Rahul onslaught help India chase 204

Auckland, Jan. 24: The immensely talented Shreyas Iyer enhanced his reputation as a finisher with a scintillating 29-ball-58 in India's six-wicket victory over New Zealand in a high-scoring first T20 at the Eden Park here on Friday. Iyer built on KL Rahul's (56 off 27 balls) blazing start and Virat Kohli's useful 45 off 32 balls as India made short work of a 204-run target, knocking it off with an over to spare. Credit should be given to Indian bowlers for restricting New Zealand towards the end considering the dimensions of the Eden Park. Earlier, Colin Munro and Kane Williamson had smashed quick-fire half-centuries as New Zealand scored 203-5. In pursuit of 204, India lost Rohit Sharma (7) early in the second over as he played one too many shots in a bid to go after spinner Mitchell Santner (1-50). Rahul and Kohli then took charge of the innings with an 80-run partnership coming off only 47 balls. The duo launched a good array of strokes with seven fours and four sixes between them as New Zealand struggled to contain the runs. India crossed 100

SHREYAS IYER

R	B	6s	4s
58	29	3	5



in the ninth over thanks to their whirlwind partnership, albeit both had chances. Rahul survived a mix-up as New Zealand failed to hit the stumps twice, and then Ish Sodhi dropped a sitter off Kohli. Continuing his fine form, Rahul notched up his half-century off 23 balls while Kohli fell short of his landmark by just five runs. Together, they provided the base for India's middle order to finish the chase. The Black Caps roared back into contention with a double blow. First, Rahul was out caught off Sodhi in the 10th over and then seven balls later, Martin Guptill pulled off a screamer at deep mid wicket to send back Kohli. India lost their set batsmen for six runs and their ploy to send Shivam Dube (13) up the order only had limited success. Dube and Iyer added 21 runs to provide some acceleration, before the all-rounder was Sodhi's second dismissal of the night. Iyer then took charge of proceedings as he smacked five fours and three sixes to propel India to victory. He added 50 off 29 balls with Manish Pandey, who hit 14 not out off 12 balls with a six. It was an immaculate display by the young batsman who showed the benefits of reaping experience batting in the middle order and perhaps answering India's questions regarding the number four situation. This was after Munro, Williamson and Ross Taylor (54 not out off 27 balls) made the Indian bowlers suffer. Jasprit Bumrah (1-31) put in a good shift with clever change of pace and control. Also Yuzvendra Chahal (1/32 in 4 overs) and Ravindra Jadeja (1/18 in 2 overs) kept a check on the run-flow during the back-end. Munro scored 59 off 42 balls, including six fours and two sixes, while Williamson hit four fours and four sixes in his

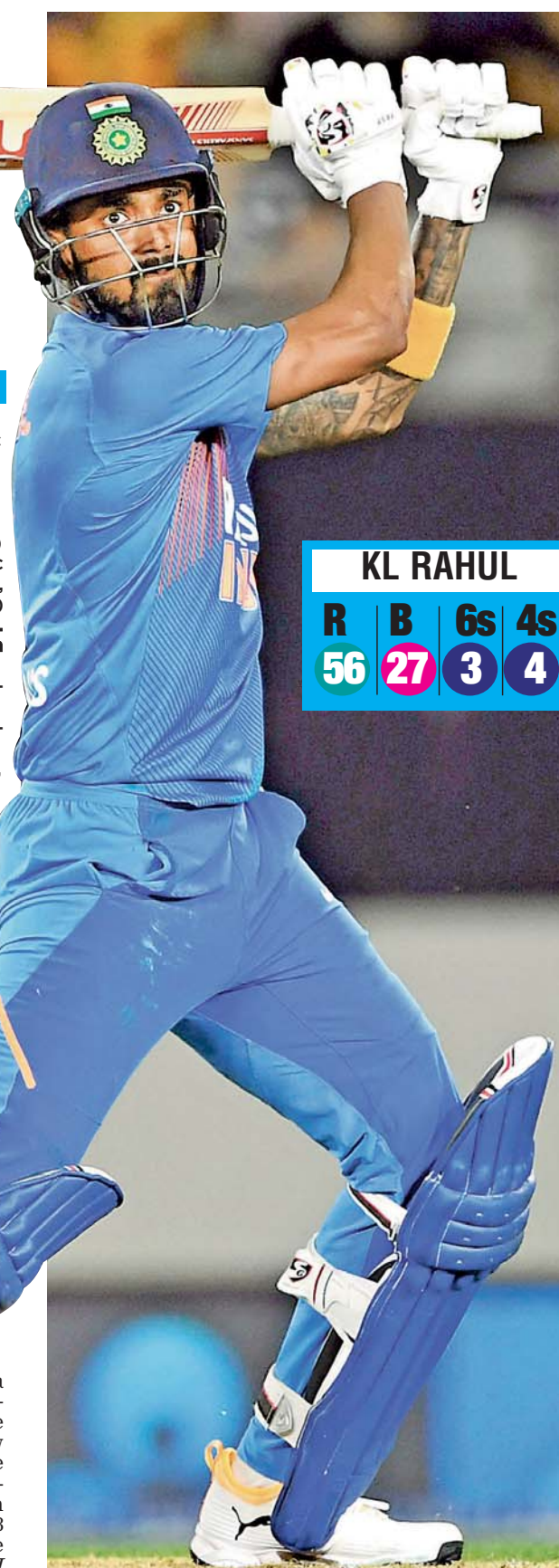
SCORECARD

New Zealand: Martin Guptill c Rohit b Dube 30, Colin Munro c Chahal b Thakur 59, Kane Williamson c Kohli b Chahal 51, Colin de Grandhomme c Dube b Jadeja 0, Ross Taylor (not out) 54, Tim Seifert c Iyer b Bumrah 1, Mitchell Santner (not out) 2. **Extras (lb 1, w 5) 6. Total (for five wickets in 20 overs) 203.** **FoW:** 1-80, 2-116, 3-117, 4-178, 5-181. **Bowling:** Bumrah 4-0-31-1, Thakur 3-0-44-1, Shami 4-0-53-0, Chahal 4-0-32-1, Dube 3-0-24-1,

26-ball 51-run innings as the Black Caps' made good use of the peculiar Eden Park shape to pile on the runs. New Zealand quickly got off the blocks with openers Munro and Martin Guptill (30 off 19 balls) putting on 68-0 in the power play. It was the highest power play score for New Zealand against India in T20Is (previous best 66-0 in 2019). Shardul Thakur (1-44) and Mohammed Shami (0-53) proved to be expensive in their opening spells. India were forced to use as many six bowlers in the first eight overs. Dube (1-24) got the breakthrough with Rohit

Sharma catching smartly to dismiss Guptill. It brought Williamson to the crease and the onslaught continued as he put on 36 off 24 balls with Munro. The latter reached his half-century off 36 balls before holding out off Thakur. India quickly got a second wicket in the space of four balls with

Ravindra Jadeja (1-18) dismissing Colin de Grandhomme (0). New Zealand, at 117-3 in the 13th over, were placed precariously but Williamson and Taylor put on 61 off 28 balls to decimate the Indian attack. — PTI



KL RAHUL

R	B	6s	4s
56	27	3	4

A win like this sets up the whole tour for us: Kohli

Auckland, Jan. 24: India also beat the jet lag besides New Zealand in the T20 series opener here and skipper Virat Kohli said Friday's convincing win was just the kind of start his team was looking for. India, who arrived here only a couple of days ago, chased down New Zealand's 203 for five with an over to spare. Kohli had spoken

about the tight scheduling in the pre-match press conference but there was no such talk within the team. "We enjoyed this. Landing two days before and playing a game like this, it was fantastic... This sets up for the whole tour for us. Felt like 80 percent support was for us and the crowd was right behind us. You need that sort of push chasing 200 plus. We

never spoke of the jet lag in the team. We didn't want any excuse," said Kohli. New Zealand is a good seven and a half hours ahead of India time. India came into the series high on confidence, having beaten Australia 2-1 at home in the ODI series that concluded on Sunday. "We had a really good series against Australia and

we took that confidence in here. You can't be harsh on anyone on this kind of pitch. I think we did well in the middle overs, to restrict them under 210 was a good effort," he said. "I think fielding is one thing that we can improve on, just getting used to the ground dimensions and the ball snaking a bit," added Kohli. — PTI

INDIA'S HIGHEST SUCCESSFUL CHASES IN T20s			
Target	Opponents	Venue	Year
208	West Indies	Hyderabad	2019
207	Sri Lanka	Mohali	2009
204	New Zealand	Auckland	2020
202	Australia	Rajkot	2013
199	England	Bristol	2018
198	Australia	Sydney	2016

Stats: S. PERVEZ QAISER

International fitness camp at Polo Club

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JAN. 24

Hyderabad-based Academia Sports Village is conducting an exclusive high-profile international physical conditioning camp for Indian players above 12 years of age and also coaches from across various disciplines. The short-term High-Intensity Plyometric Training (February 3 to 12), a first-of-its-kind international arrangement, will be held at the Hyderabad Polo and Riding Club (HPRC) complex at Aziz Nagar, Moinabad. The camp will be conducted by globally acclaimed fitness coach, Robert Hrvje Condic, the Croatian mentor who has worked on several tennis and football internationals besides serving as the fitness coach of the Croatian football team, which finished runner-up at the 2018 FIFA World Cup in Russia. He will be in town for the coaches' clinic and will introduce to the coaches and players the Plyometric training regimen that is widely patronised by the biggest contemporary champions and top-grade athletes. Bearing the signature of Robert Hrvje Condic, the certificates, which will be issued on the concluding day, are recognised by Croatian and European coaches, Clubs and Associations. Lower-body plyometric exercises are suitable for many disciplines, including basketball, track & field events, football, hockey, rugby, baseball and tennis. It is scientifically established that the performance levels of those into a sport that involves jumping, sprinting or kicking can be improved with lower body plyometric exercises. For details regarding registrations, call 9515125592 or log on to www.sportsvillage.club.



Bhupinder Singh Hooda, former chief minister of Haryana, presents the winners trophy to Hyderabad team at the Lal Bahadur Stadium on Friday night.

Hyderabad emerge champions

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JAN. 24

Hyderabad beat Tamil Nadu by six runs to win the 7th Rajiv Gandhi All India Under 19 Day and Night Cricket Championship at the Lal Bahadur Stadium here on Friday night. Batting first, the hosts made a modest 139 in the stipulated 20 overs as Samuel Raj (2/24), Pranshu (2/21) and Sunny (2/26) did well to keep Hyderabad in check. However, the Tamil Nadu batsmen could not pull off the chase and managed only 133 for the loss of eight wickets in their allotted overs. For Hyderabad, Koushik Reddy (2/4), Anirudh (2/20), Kevin (2/26) and Varun Goud (2/26) turned in fine spells of bowling. Earlier in the semi-finals, Tamil Nadu beat

Chennai by eight wickets while Hyderabad scored a nine-wicket win over Karnataka. **BRIEF SCORES**
Final: Hyderabad 139 in 20 overs (Gaurav 23, Prateek 24, Varun Goud 20, Samuel Raj 2/24, Sunny 2/26, Pranshu 2/21) bt Tamil Nadu 133/8 in 20 overs (Sharath Raj 20, Varun Goud 2/26, Anirudh 2/20, Kevin 2/26, Koushik Reddy 2/4). **Semi-finals:** ■ Chennai 81 in 14.5 overs (Sanjay 21, Samuel Raj 5/15, Vinay 3/15) lost to Tamil Nadu 84/2 in 11.1 overs (Adnan Khan 52, Tushar 19). ■ Karnataka 71 in 18.2 overs (Venkat 27, Taha 3/18, Ritvik 2/14, Saqlain 2/10) lost to Hyderabad 75/1 in 10.5 overs (Anuraag 37, Vignesh 17). **INDIVIDUAL AWARDS**
■ **Best Batsman:** Tushar (Tamil Nadu). ■ **Best Bowler:** Saqlain (Hyderabad). ■ **Best Wicketkeeper:** Gaurav Reddy (Hyderabad). ■ **Best Fielder:** Jasper (Karnataka). ■ **Best Allrounder:** Taha Shaik (Hyderabad).

HYDERABAD UNDER 23 TEAM POST A VICTORY

DC CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, JAN. 24

Hyderabad beat Rajasthan by 41 runs to take six points from their Col C. K. Nayudu Trophy Under 23 cricket match at the Gymkhana ground on Friday. Needing 179 for an outright win, the visitors were all out/137 in their second innings in the face of tight bowling by T. Krishna Charit (3/40), Ajay Dev Goud (2/19), S. Praneeth Raj (2/25) and C. T. Rakshann Reddi (2/32). **BRIEF SCORES**
■ **Col C. K. Nayudu Trophy:** Hyderabad 241 in 83.4 overs & 174 in 92.3 overs (Shreyas Vala 50, S. S. Diwan 5 for 71, A. S. Garg 2 for 11) bt Rajasthan 237 in 70.4 overs & 137 in 36 overs (S. Praneeth Raj 2 for 25, C. T. Rakshann Reddi 2 for 32, T. Krishna Charit 3 for 40, Ajay Dev Goud 2 for 19). Points: Hyderabad 6, Rajasthan 0. ■ **South Zone Boys Under 14:** Hyderabad 124 in 62.3 overs (S. Harshit 44, B. Pranav Reddy 4 for 21, M. Vijay Prasad 2 for 25) & 105/7 in 20 overs (Aawez Ahmed 33 n.o, B. Pranav Reddy 2 for 26, S. V. Rahul 2 for 11) drew with Andhra 286/2 in 50 overs (B. Yashwant 78, Rahul S. V. 119 — 125b, 15x4, 1x6, Varun Satwik 63)

RACE HEATS UP FOR SELECTOR'S JOB

Now, Agarkar is the frontrunner

New Delhi, Jan. 24: Former India pacer Ajit Agarkar on Friday entered the race for the national selector's job and is a frontrunner for the chairman's post. Agarkar confirmed that he has applied for the national selector's position. Agarkar, who is a former chairman of Mumbai senior selection committee, is in contention for the chairman's post as the new constitution doesn't have provisions for zonal system. It can also be confirmed that former India medium pacer and junior chairman of selectors Venkatesh Prasad has once again applied for senior selector's post although he has only around one and half years of his cumulative term left. With BCCI setting January 24 as the deadline for sending applications, the 42-year-old Agarkar is certainly the most high-profile name with 26 Tests, 191 ODIs and 3 T20 Internationals, picking 349 wickets across formats. Agarkar remains India's third highest wicket-taker in ODIs (with 288 scalps) behind Anil Kumble (334 wickets) and Javagal Srinath (315 wickets). One of the fastest bowlers during his time, Agarkar was quickest to 50 wickets, reaching the feat in only 23 games. "Ajit entering the fray is an interesting development. He is someone



Ajit Agarkar

who would have put in a lot of thought before applying. If anyone thought that Siva's nomination as a chairman of selectors is a given, will now think again. It will be every interesting to see who all are short-listed," a senior BCCI official said. With West Zone's Jatin Paranjpe still having a year left, will BCCI accommodate two national selectors from Mumbai in case Agarkar manages to impress the yet to be formed Cricket Advisory Committee. "The BCCI president Sourav Ganguly on the first day had spoken about transparency. If the intent is correct and the heart is in right place, why do we need to have zonal biases and follow the convention?" the official asked. Apart from Agarkar and Sivaramakrishnan, the other prominent names to have applied include Nayan Mongia, Chetan Sharma, Rajesh Chauhan. — PTI



Ready for new challenge

Romelu Lukaku believes he made the right decision to leave Manchester United for a new challenge at Inter Milan, saying he had to “re-find” himself after a difficult time at Old Trafford

Games

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DECCAN CHRONICLE

SATURDAY | 25 JANUARY 2020 | HYDERABAD

BOBBY'S LATE SHOW ROCKS WOLVES AS LIVERPOOL CRUISE

Wolverhampton, Jan. 24: Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp hailed another moment of magic from Roberto Firmino as the Brazilian's late winner opened up a 16-point lead at the top of the Premier League with a 2-1 victory at Wolves on Thursday.

The European champions' now 14-game winning streak in the league seemed set to end as Raul Jimenez cancelled out Jordan Henderson's early opener.

Liverpool were even grateful to goalkeeper Alisson Becker for not falling behind in the second half.

However, like crucial victories against Leicester, Aston Villa and Crystal Palace earlier in the campaign, Liverpool left it late to snatch another vital three points in their quest to end a 30-year wait to win the title as Firmino smashed home six minutes from time.

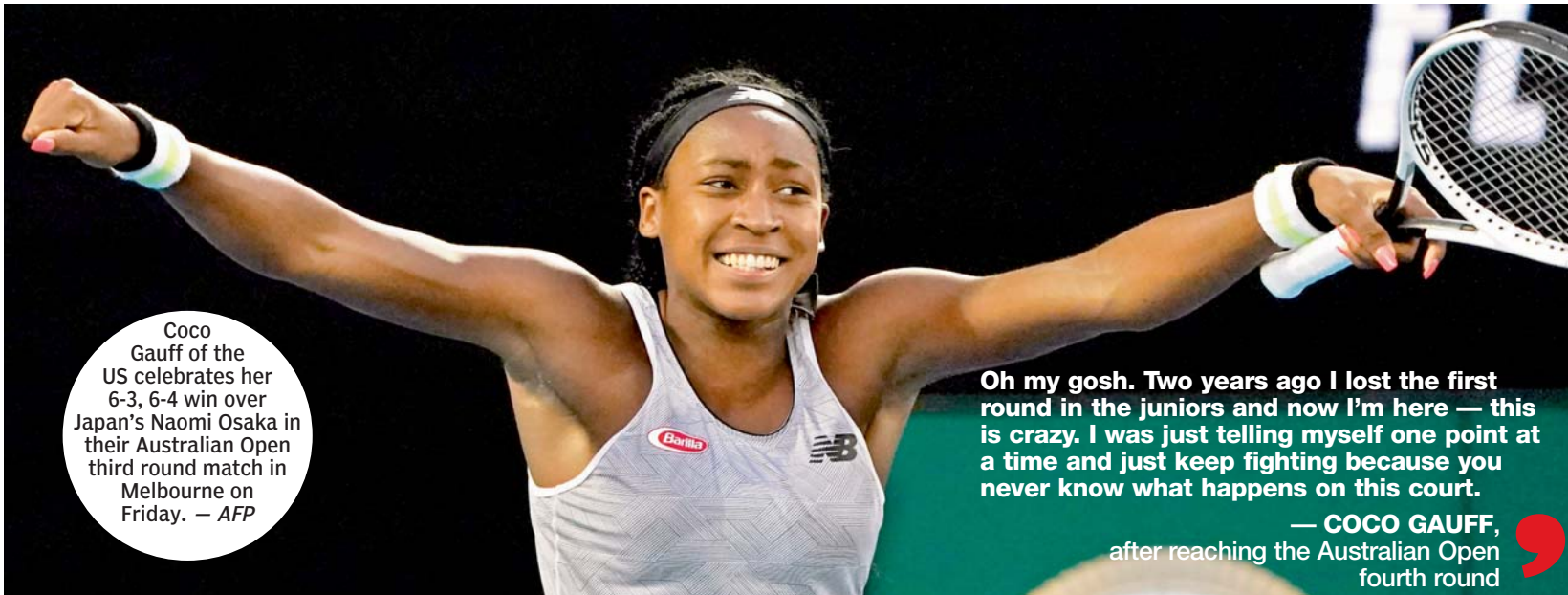
“You just have to find a way to win and have someone who makes the perfect decision and that was Bobby again,” said Klopp, adding, “A worldie I would say from Bobby, a super goal.”

Liverpool, who now have 22 wins in 23 league games this season, also have a game in hand over second-placed Manchester City to come.

However, victory could still come at a cost as Mane hobbled off with a hamstring injury in the first half.

“We don't know exactly (the severity of the injury). He felt something in the hamstring,” added Klopp, whose side are also still in the hunt for the FA Cup and Champions League.

Defeat leaves Wolves still six points off the top four in seventh, but Nuno Espirito Santo's side showed why they are on form the most likely challengers to fourth-placed Chelsea for a place in next season's Champions League. —AFP



Coco Gauff of the US celebrates her 6-3, 6-4 win over Japan's Naomi Osaka in their Australian Open third round match in Melbourne on Friday. — AFP

Oh my gosh. Two years ago I lost the first round in the juniors and now I'm here — this is crazy. I was just telling myself one point at a time and just keep fighting because you never know what happens on this court.

— COCO GAUFF, after reaching the Australian Open fourth round

Gauff out of CoCoon

Teen stuns champion Osaka; Serena crashes out; Wozniacki retires

Melbourne, Jan. 24: Serena Williams crashed out, 15-year-old Coco Gauff stunned Naomi Osaka and Roger Federer survived a five-set thriller as the form book went flying out of the window at the Australian Open on Friday.

Men's title-holder Novak Djokovic eased into the last 16 but elsewhere there were surprises all over Melbourne Park with Serena the biggest vic-

tim and Federer fighting back from 4-8 down in a fifth-set tie-break with John Millman.

Serena's bid for a record-equalling 24th Grand Slam was shattered by the unlikely figure of China's Wang Qiang, who triumphed in three tough sets 6-4,

6/7 (2/7), 7-5 — after winning just one game when they played at the US Open in September.

Gauff then stepped up her giant-killing Melbourne debut as she

clawed back from 4-8

down to clinch his 100th win at the Australian Open. “Oh God, it was tough. Thank God it was a super tie-breaker (10 points), otherwise I would have lost this one. It came down to the wire in the end,” said Federer.

With Serena now 38, 23 years older than Gauff, the two players are at opposite ends of their careers.

And with Serena's close friend Caroline Wozniacki retiring on

Friday, after defeat to Ons Jabeur, it looked like a changing of the guard in women's tennis.

Her defeat came just minutes after Denmark's Wozniacki was knocked out by Tunisia's Jabeur, bringing a tearful end to the former world number one's final tournament before retiring.

“I had a dream when I was a kid. I wanted to win a Grand Slam. I wanted to be number

one in the world. People thought that I was crazy being from a small country. But I made it happen,” said Wozniacki, the Melbourne winner in 2018.

DIVIJ BOWS OUT

India's Divij Sharan and his New Zealand partner Artem Sitak were knocked out of the Australian Open men's doubles competition after going down 6-7, 3-6 in straight sets to Bruno Soares and Mate Pavic on Friday. —Agencies

RESULTS

MEN'S SINGLES 3RD ROUND

Novak Djokovic (SRB x2) bt Yoshihito Nishioka (JPN) 6-3, 6-2, 6-2; Roger Federer (SUI x3) bt John Millman (AUS) 4-6, 7-6 (7/2), 6-4, 4-6, 7-6 (10/8); Fabio Fognini (ITA x12) bt Guido Pella (ARG x22) 7-6 (7/0), 6-2, 6-3; Marton Fucsovics (HUN) bt Tommy Paul (USA) 6-1, 6-1, 6-4; Milos Raonic (CAN x32) bt Stefanos Tsitsipas (GRE x6) 7-5, 6-4, 7-6 (7/2); Marin Cilic (CRO) bt Roberto Bautista (ESP x9) 6-7 (3/7), 6-4, 6-0, 5-7, 6-3.

WOMEN'S SINGLES 3RD ROUND

Cori Gauff (USA) bt Naomi Osaka (JPN x3) 6-3, 6-4; Wang Qiang (CHN x27) bt Serena Williams (USA x8) 6-4, 6-7 (2/7), 7-5; Ons Jabeur (TUN) bt Caroline Wozniacki (DEN) 7-5, 3-6, 7-5; Ashleigh Barty (AUS x1) bt Elena Rybakina (KAZ x29) 6-3, 6-2; Alison Riske (USA x18) bt Julia Goerges (GER) 1-6, 7-6 (7/4), 6-2; Maria Sakkari (GRE x22) bt Madison Keys (USA x10) 6-4, 6-4; Petra Kvitova (CZE x7) bt Ekaterina Alexandrova (RUS x25) 6-1, 6-2.

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Prime Time



Prime Minister Narendra Modi meets Hyderabad's Rashtriya Bal Puraskar awardees mountaineer Samanyu Pothuraju (above) and shooter Esha Singh (below) at his residence in New Delhi on Friday.



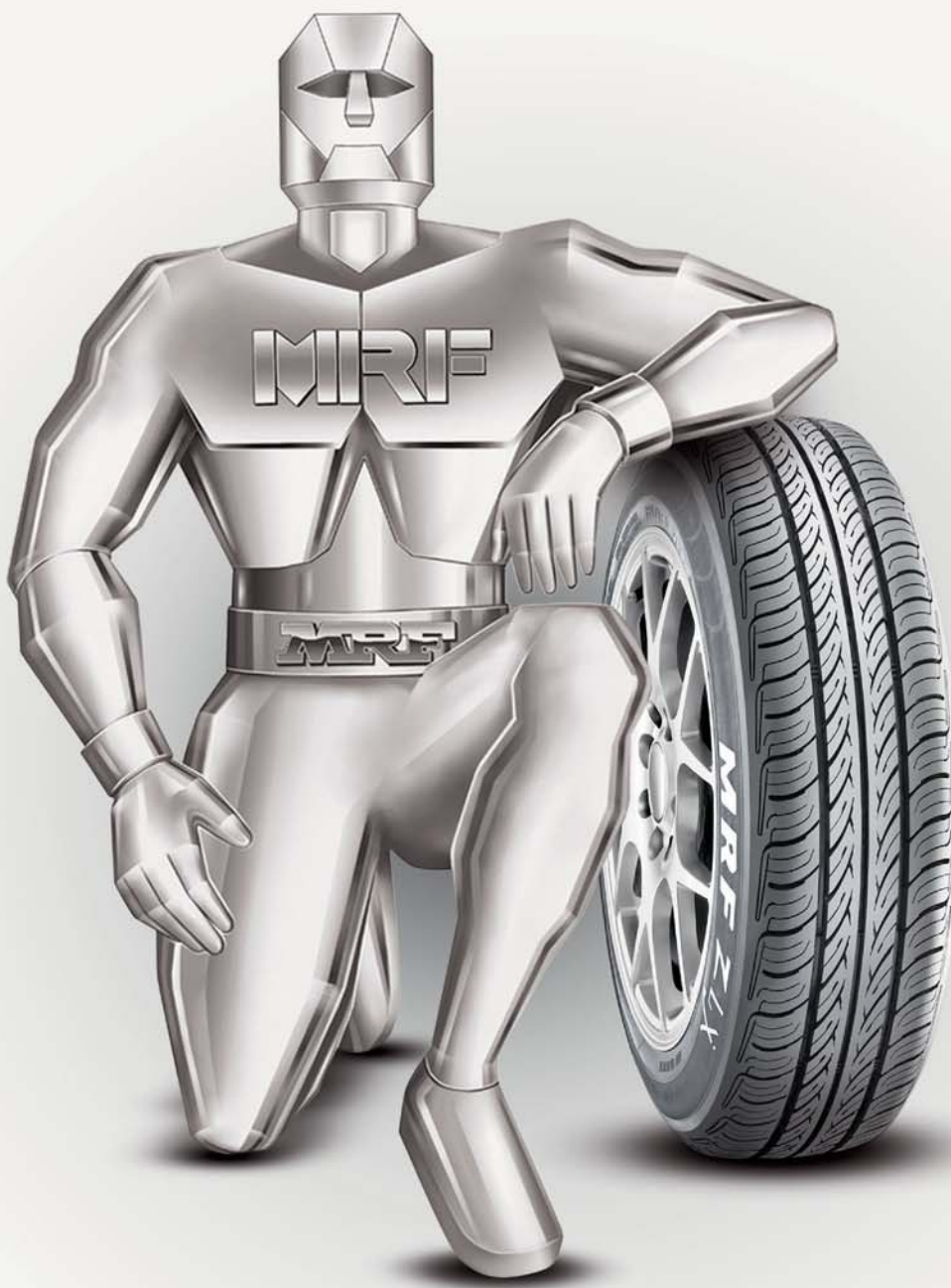
CHENNAI HAVE ADVANTAGE

Chennai, Jan. 24: Lakshya Sen and Tommy Sugiarto bagged their third consecutive wins for Chennai Superstarz as the hosts clashed with Bengaluru Raptors at the Premier Badminton League at the Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium here on Friday.

Sen displayed exceptional temperament and anticipation skills to blow away the 38th ranked Brice Leverdez of France 15-5, 15-4. In another match, Sugiarto's stubborn defense and refusal to break down wore out B. Sai Praneeth, who lost the match 13-15, 15-10, 11-15. —Agencies



Badminton world champion P. V. Sindhu shares a light moment with former Indian cricket captain and Hyderabad Cricket Association president Mohammad Azharuddin at the book launch of *I'MPOSSIBLE* by former cricketer Dr K. Hari Prasad in Hyderabad on Friday. — DEEPAK DESHPANDE



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