#### **Quashing FIR**



Comedian Bharti Singh moves Punjab and Haryana HC to quash an FIR for allegedly hurting religious sentiments in a TV show



#### SHORT TAKES

#### 1 killed as coaches detach from train

Fatehgarh Sahib: Several coaches of the Ajmer-bound Pooja Express train got detached from its engine few minutes after departure from Ludhiana, killing one passenger, officials said on Sunday. The incident occurred on Saturday night near Brahman Majra village in Sirhind city here. Satpal, a resident of Pathankot in Punjab, sustained head injuries after he fell off a bogie following detachment of the engine. He was taken to hospital where he succumbed to the injuries, an official of the Government Railway Police said.

### TN villages oppose

hydrocarbon project

Thanjavur(TN): All villages in the Cauvery delta region in Tamil Nadu passed resolutions opposing the hydrocarbon exploration project at Grama Sabha meetings held on Sunday, revenue officials said. The resolutions were passed even as the Centre resolved recently to exempt oil and gas firms looking to carry out exploratory drilling from getting environmental clearance. According to officials, villages in the delta districts includingThanjavur, Cuddalore, Nagapattinam and Tiruvarur adopted resolutionsagainst the project. The Centre amended the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006 for hydrocarbon projects, allowing it to bypass prior clearance and public consultation for such projects.

#### **Complaint against** Visva Bharati V-C

Kolkata: The Visva Bharati Sudents' Unity, comprising Left-wing students, has filed a police complaint against Vice-Chancellor Bidyut Chakraborty, accusing him of asking some people to teach a lesson to certain Left- leaning students of the central varsity. A video clip containing the purported conversation was also submitted to the police. While Chakraborty could not be contacted, a Visva Bharati spokesman said that the video was "doctored" and was intended to "malign" the image of the institution and people at its helm. The video, circulated on social media, was purportedly shot on January 7, during a campus walk led by Chakraborty to uphold the image of the institution, a day before stu-dents stalled a seminar.

# India, NDFB to ink Bodo pact PM: Violence no

#### ABSU to give up separate statehood demand to end five-decade conflict

#### MANOJ ANAND | DC GUWAHATI, JAN. 26

In what may be called a major breakthrough on insurgency front, the ministry of home affairs is going to sign a peace accord with all the factions of National Demorecently cratic Front Bodoland (NDFB) and powerful All Bodo Students Union (Absu) on Monday in New Delhi.

community.

Informing that the accord will be signed in presence of Union home minister Amit Shah, Assam chief minister Sarbananda Sonowal and chief of Bodoland Territorial Council Hagrama Moh-iliary security sources said told this newspaper that the new accord will

provide for some political rights to the Bodo tribals living in Assam and some economic package for the Asserting that home have ministry has rejected



#### **THE LEADERS** are camping in Delhi to give final touches to the peace accord

demand of a separate state or union territory for the Bodos, security sources said that top leadership of four different factions of NDFB would be the signatory to the accord

Admitting that they have given up the demand of separate state, the powerful All Bodo Students Union president Pramod Boro who is in New Delhi told this newspaper, "We given up our demands in larger interest

Sarbananda Sonowal

of the society. We took lead to end the conflict situation which was causing huge lose to the society." Regretting that some Bodo leaders have been accusing us of giving up demand of separate state, Mr Boro said, "We have lost many precious lives in the ongoing decades-old armed conflict in the Bodoland Territorial Council areas. Just to bring an end to bloodshed, we chose to give up many of our demands. We are getting nothing in the peaceaccord but to restore peace and tranquillity in Bodo areas, the Absu decided to

support and back this peace-accord." The NDFB chief Ranjan

Daimary who has been serving the life imprison-ment in serial bomb blast case of Guwahati was granted bail recently by a bench of the Gauhati High Court to facilitate Mr

Daimary's presence as one of the signatories of the accord. NDFB(S) leaders, including its chairman, B. Saoraigwra, general secre tary B.R. Ferenga and senior members B. Batha and G Bidai are camping in Delhi to give final touch to the peace accord proposed

to be signed on Monday. However, officials made it clear that the territorial integrity of Assam will be maintained and the key demand of the NDFB, which is either a separate State or a UT, is not going

to be entertained. The four factions of the NDFB, which will sign the accord, are led by Ranjan Daimari, Govinda Basumatary, Dhiren Boro and B. Saoraigra. Some NDFB militants

were part of the 644 militants who surrendered in Guwahati on Thursday before Assam chief minister Sonowal. Security sources said

that status of the existing Bodoland Territorial Council will remain the same but the community would be given more political rights and representation in the proposed upper house of the state assemblv.

It will be the third Bodo accord to be signed in last 27 years when the violent movement for a separate Bodoland state claimed hundreds of lives, destruction of public and private properties.

The demand for a separate state for the Bodos has been going on in Assam for about five decades, leading to agita-tions, protests, violence and many deaths.

# solution in NE

New Delhi, Jan. 26: Violence never resolves any issue and no problem can be worked out by creating another, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Sunday in his monthly 'Mann ki Baat' radio address — the first of the year.

He appealed to those seeking to settle issues through violence to return to the mainstream, saying they should have faith in the they capabilities of India to resolve matters peaceful-ly. Noting that insurgency in the northeast has reduced "considerably", the prime minister said,

"Violence never resolves any issue." He urged people to together "forge a new India, where every issue is resolved on a platform

of peace." The PMpointed out that a few days ago, 644 mili-tants from eight different groups surrendered with their weapons. "Those



MANN | KI BAAT

who had strayed towards

the path of violence have

expressed their faith in

peace and decided to become a partner in the country's progress and

return to the main-stream," he said.

up weapons thinking that violence could solve prob-

lems, now firmly believe

that the only way to solve

any dispute is peace and togetherness," the PM said in his radio address.

The biggest reason behind the reduction in

insurgency in the north-

east is that "every issue of

the region is being hon-

estly and peacefully solved through dialogue",

Noting that the 21st cen-

tury is the era of knowl-

edge, science and democ-

racy, Modi wondered whether anyone has ever

heard of a place where

life has turned better due

he said.

"Those who had picked

#### RESEARCHERS **MISTAKEN FOR NRC SURVERYORS**

Jan. 26: A team of rese archers from Lucknow mistaken as surveyors for NRC was caught by residents of a village here and handed over to the police, a senior offi-

Ram said the incident took place on Friday when the team, comprising 12 people, including four women, visited a village under Jamalpur

Lucknow-based research organisation, which was engaged by a US-based PhD scholar.

However, as they began visiting households the

The situation was defused at the police station where officials verified the identities of the researchers and explained to the villagers, who then went back sat-

and send them to jail. Sources said the construction company was banned by the Airport Authority of India for Odisha police on Sunday arrested Dillip Khatai, three years in connection

chief of construction company Dillip Constrwith delay in a project. Now the question remains as to on what grounds the firm was uctions Private Limited after an under-construc-tion link building between Terminal 1 and roped in by the BPIA for the construction work. Terminal 2 of the Biju Patnaik International Airport (BPIA) here col-lapsed on Friday night. Notably, a person identified as Antaryami Guru, a resident of Baramba in Cuttack district, was The police had on killed and few others suf-Friday detained Khatai fered injuries after roof and interrogated him in of an under-construction connection with the airlink building caved in at port mishap. Apart from Khatai, Airport around 10 pm on Friday. The BJD demanded a Authority of India AGM thorough probe into the Asish Sarkar and two and incident strong engineers - Abhilash and action against those responsible for the same. Goutam Ray - were arrest-Following their arrest,

Party spokesperson Sasmit Patra said, "We the four persons were prodemand adequate duced in a court which rejected their bail plea compensation for his family



Brinda Karat **LEADERS UNFAZED BY THREAT LETTER TO 14 CELEBRITIES** 

> New Delhi, Jan. 26: CPM leader Brinda Karat, who has been named in an unsigned letter sent to noted actor Prakash Raj and 13 oth-ers threatening to "eliminate" them, called the group which had sent it 'cowards" and said this will not stop their work. Raj, who shared the let-ter on Twitter, said it was from a group of "cowards" and quoted Faiz's iconic poem Hum

Dekhenge. The letter is addressed to Nijagunanada Swami, a prominent critic of the Sangh Parivar, and mentions 14 others, including Karat, Raj and former Karnataka chief minister H.D. Kumaraswamy. "These cowardly threats will never stop our work. Police should

Kumaraswamy. The gov-ernment should take the death threat...seriously. The government should

investigate into the mat-

ter," said Siddaramaiah

**PRO-CAA RALLY** 

**STONED IN MP'S** 

in a tweet.



## Padma is reward for Sami

2 held for Odisha

## Darbhanga (Bihar), BHUBANESWAR, JAN. 26

cial said on Sunday. SP, Darbhanga, Babu

police station area. The team was from a

word spread that "NRC surveyors" had arrived following which villagers grew furious and held them hostage before dragging them to the police station.

# airport 'collapse' AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO | DC

#### **COLD WAVE HITS** PARTS OF **NORTH INDIA**

New Delhi, Jan. 26: Parts of north India shivered under cold conditions on Sunday with the weather department issuing a warning for heavy rain and snowfall in Himachal Pradesh even as there was some respite for Kashmir where the mercury continued its upward trend.

The minimum temperature in Delhi recorded a rise of around two notches from that on Saturday, settling at 6.9°C while the maximum was recorded at 22.7°C. The relative humidity oscillated between 100 per cent and 59 per cent. Cold conditions per-sisted in Himachal Pradesh with the meteorological department issuing a yellow weather warning for heavy rain and snowfall in the state for Tuesday. The weather office issues colour-coded warnings to alert people ahead of severe or hazardous weather that has the potential to cause "damage, widespread disruption or danger to life"

Yellow, the least dangerous of all the weather warnings, indicates possibility of a severe weather. Tribal district Lahaul-Spiti's administrative centre Keylong recorded the lowest temperature in the state at minus 9.3°C. Kinnaur's Kalpa recorded a low of minus 5.6°C and the minimum temperature in both Manali and Kufri was minus 0.8°C, he said, adding the minimum temperatures in Dalhousie and Shimla was 1.5°C and 3.8°C respectively. Una record ed the highest maximum temperature in the state at 23°C, Singh said. The weatherman has forecast rain and snowfall in middle and high hills of the state from January 27 to 29 and on January 31.

## 'chamchagiri', says Cong

New Delhi, Jan. 26: The Congress on Sunday hit out at the Modi government over bestowing the Padma Shri on singermusician Adnan Sami and asked why Kargil War veteran Mohmmad Sannaullah was declared a foreigner through the NRC for Assam, while the son of a Pakistan Air Force pilot has been conferred with one of India's

highest civilian honour. Sami was one of the 118 people whose names were announced on Saturday for the Padma Shri awards, with the Ministry of Home Affairs list showing his home state as Maharashtra. Sami, born in London to a Pakistani Air force veteran, applied for Indian citizenship in 2015 and became a citizen of the country in January 2016.

Hitting out at the Centre, Congress spoke-sperson Jaiveer Shergill said, "Kargil War veteran and retired army officer



Sanaullah Mohammad who fought for India declared 'foreigner' after NRC and Adnan Sami family fought whose against India honoured with Padma Shri — This is the magic of NRC and chamchagovernment giri!"

to the government over the issue, asking why an Indian soldier like Sannaullah is declared a foreigner via the NRC for Assam and the son a of Pakistan Air Force pilot is given the Padma Shri. "Is contribution 'Yogdan' to



Adnan Sami

Sami on being honoured with a Padma Shri. He is one of the many who reposed faith in the Constitution of India & were granted citizenship, Mr Puri, who also handles the Union housing min-

istry, added. He also posed questions People protesting against the new citizenship law at Delhi's Shaheen Bagh for more than a month, alleging it is discriminatory. The assured the law does not take way citizenship.

isfied, the SP said. He added that similar incidents took place in the district in recent past and an awareness campaign was launched for residents to "inform the police or local administration offi-cials" if any surveyors aroused suspicion "instead of illegally detaining them". -PTI

The under construction link building which collapsed at the Odisha airport. – PTI

isation,

# India slams EU parliament proposal to debate CAA

ed by the police.

#### SRIDHAR KUMARASWAMI | DC NEW DELHI, JAN. 26

With reports that the European Parliament is set to debate and vote on a resolution tabled by some of its Left-wing members against India's Citiz-enship Amendment Act (CAA), which it says marks a "dangerous shift" in the country's citizenship regime and has "created the legal grounds to strip millions of Muslims of the fundamental right of equal access to citizen-

ship", Indian government sources late on Sunday evening said that "the EU Parliament should not take actions that call into question the rights and authority of democrati-cally elected legislatures in other regions of the world".

Alarm bells have begun both a context and criteringing in New Delhi over ria (and that) this is not the proposed discussion discrimination".

on CAA in European Union Parliament. Hoping that "sponsors

contemplates

**JABALPUR TOWN** and supporters of the draft will engage with us to get a full and accurate DC CORRESPONDENT assessment of the facts BHOPAL, JAN. 26 before they proceed fur-A rally taken out in sup ther", Indian government sources further said that "every society that fashport of Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) ions a pathway to natural-

by a fringe saffron outfit in district headquarters of Jabalpur was on Sunday stoned by unidentified miscre-ants. Tension gripped in the town following the

incident, police said. According to the police, the rally taken out by Hindu Dharm Sena was attacked at Raddi Chowk. The miscreants also pelted stones at the police.

The incident took place when the police was negotiating with the demonstrators to divert the rally to prevent it from coming across an anti-CAA rally being taken out on the same route. Some people who took part in the anti-CAA rally started pelting stones at the pro-CAA rally, leading to clash between the two groups, police said.

Police lobbed tear gas shells and used water canon to disperse the crowds. No one was injured in the incident.

#### Traffic stalled for 3 hours as government drivers, agitators destroy CCTVs, booth NO ENTRY hennai toll plaza vandalised in fracas

#### P.A.JEBARAJ I DC CHENNAI, JAN. 26

It was a night of utter chaos at Paranur toll plaza in Chengalpet with an argument between employees and a SETC bus driver breaking into violence and vandalism.

The toll booths were totally vandalised, equipment like CCTV cameras shattered and traffic came to a standstill for three hours early on Sunday. night to 3 am.

The incident reportedly started when the employee asked the driver to pay toll to go through and the driv-

CCTV's, booths and twoer challenged the toll plaza wheelers of the employees employee as to how dare they ask a government bus turning the place into a

driver to pay toll. The argument turned bitter and other employees there joined hands and attacked the driver and the conductor of the bus.

The agitated driver parked the bus in the mid-People responsible for dle of the road and traffic the chaos were removed from the spot and traffic was regulated. A few of the toll plaza employees was blocked on the Chennai-Tiruchy national highway from around midwho attacked the bus crew passengers were taken to the police from other buses in the station and further investoll plaza queue got down and started damaging tigations are on into the

incident.

a major flutter in the area but such incidents seem to have become a common enough occurrence in the Paranur toll plaza. The complaint put forth by the drivers passing through the plaza is miscommunication as most of the employees are from North India and they don't know

It has also been said that the employees are under the influence of alcohol most of the time and they behave rudely with drivers passing through the toll plaza.



The remains of a toll plaza in Paranur near Chennai after it was vandalised on Sunday morning after arguments between plaza staff and state transport bus crew - DECCAN CHRONICLE became violent.











Irritated

battleground.

Chengalpet DSP Kan-dhan, on being informed, rushed to the spot along with more than 100 policemen and brought the situation under control.

listening. India doesn't

believe in taking away cit-

have

government has

to

been

-PTI

izenships," he tweeted.

"Congratulations

Tamil.

The incident has caused



Election

Ruling Nepal Communist Party (NCP) lawmaker Agni Prasad Sapkota was elected unopposed as the Parliament Speaker on Sunday



#### IN BRIEF Jordanian charged with terror attack

Amman: A Jordanian court on Sunday levelled "terrorism" charges against a man suspected of wounding eight people in a November knife attack at a tourist site. The suspect, Moustafa Abourouis, 22, faces up to 20 years in prison after the stabbing of three Mexicans, a Swiss woman, a Jordanian tour guide and a security officer at the Roman city of Jerash. At a hearing open to the press, prosecutors accused Abourouis of committing a "terrorist act" and "promoting the ideas of their group" a reference to the Islamic State group. Abo-urouis, who is of Palestinian origins and grew up in the refugee camp of Souf, was arrested immediately after the attack at Jerash, close to the camp and around 50 km (30 miles) north of Amman. The Jordanian prosecutor accused Abourouis of trying to join IS, an operative of which in Syria had "ordered him to commit attacks against foreigners"

#### **Defaced gurdwara** holds open house

Washington: A gurdwara in the US state of California has organised an open house and welcomed hundreds of people in a bid to spread awareness about the religion, weeks after it was defaced with a swastika graffiti in an apparent hate crime. On January 13, the priest of Guru Maneyo Granth Gurdwara Sahib in Or-angevale saw words "White Power" and a swastika graffitied onto the sign out front and informed police. On Saturday, members of the minority community welcomed hundreds of people from differ-ent backgrounds, religions and races to an open house and lunch to reject the hate-fuelled message, The Sacramento Bee news website reported. "To see everyone come here in solidarity, shoulder to shoulder, is very uplifting"

#### Man points lasers at planes, held

Sarasota (US): A man was arrested for pointing lasers at planes trying to land at a Florida airport and injuring a pilot in the process, authorities said. Charlie Chapman Jr. aimed his laser pointer toward a plane four times and toward a sheriff's helicopter once as they tried to land last week at Sarasota Bradenton Airport, according to the Manatee County Sheriff's Office. One pilot said the laser hit him directly in the eyes and caused temporary blindness and lingering blurred vision. The Orlando Sentinel reported a video also showed a man appearing to throw objects at the sheriff's helicopter as it tried to land. After several pilots reported the incidents, the investigation led deputies to Chapman. They found the 41-year-old on a forklift Wednesday night.

# **Trump ordered Ukraine envoy ouster**

Trump's deals with Ukraine not fact-finding mission but politically motivated: Counsel

Washington, Jan. 26: President Donald Trump in 2018 ordered the removal of the US ambassador to Ukraine, Marie Yovanovitch, according to a video made public on Saturday. In the tape, Mr Trump can be heard saying "Get rid of her!" at a dinner with a group of donors in Washington. Ms Yovanovitch, who was recalled from her post in May 2019, has testified in Mr Trump's impeachment inquiry. The footage from April 2018 was provided by an attorney of Lev Parnas, a US businessman who was at the dinner. Mr Trump has maintained that he does not know Mr Parnas, who worked for the president's personal lawyer Rudolph Giuliani. The businessman, who is a Republican party donor, says he went to Ukraine to pressure officials on behalf of the president and

Mr Giuliani. President Trump has so far made no public comment on the emergence of the video recording. On Saturday, his lawyers began defending him at his impeachment trial in the Senate, accusing Democrats of seeking to overturn the result of the 2016 election. The Republican president faces two charges: Abuse of power and obstruction of Congress. Mr Trump is alleged to have withheld military aid to pressure Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky into starting a corruption investi-gation into Mr Trump's political rival, Democrat Joe Biden, and his son Hunter. President Trump has repeatedly branded the impeachment proceed-

ings a "witch hunt". What's in the video tape? The recording was made during a dinner at the International Trump Hotel in Washington on 30 April 2018. It was shot on the mobile phone of Igor Fruman, a US businessman and former Giuliani associate. Both Mr Fruman and Mr Parnas were

# Tehran willing to negotiate with US

Dubai, Jan. 26: Iran is iegel. "The Trump admin not ruling out negotiaistration can correct its tions with the United Stapast, lift the sanctions tes even after an Ameriand come back to the necan drone strike that gotiating table. We're still killed a top Iranian generat the negotiating table. They're the ones who left." In Washington, Trual, the country's foreign minister said in an intermp rejected Zarif's review released Saturday. Mohammed Javad Zarif marks in a tweet. "Irantold Germany's Der Spieian Foreign Minister says gel magazine that he wou-Iran wants to negotiate ld "never rule out the poswith The United States, but wants sanctions remsibility that people will oved," he tweeted, then added, "No Thanks!" change their approach and recognise the realiti-' in an interview cond-Meanwhile on Saturday, ucted Friday in Tehran. Ali Asghar Zarean, an ai-There has been growing tension between Washinde to Iran's nuclear chief, said Iran's enriched urangton and Tehran since in 2018, when President Do-nald Trump pulled the ium stockpile has exceeded 1,200 kilograms, which is far beyond the 2015 nu-United States out of the clear deal between Tehranuclear deal with Iran. n and world powers allow-The US has since reimped. "Iran is increasing its stockpile of the enriched osed tough sanctions that have crippled Iran's econ-omy. But Zarif suggested uranium with full speed, he said. The claim has not Iran was still willing to been verified by the UN's nuclear watchdog. Following the U.S. drone talk, but reiterated his country's previous demand that first the US would strike on Jan. 3 that killed Gen. Qassem Soleimani, Iran announced it would have to lift sanctions. "For us, it doesn't matter who is sitting in the no longer abide by any of White House, what mattethe deal's limitations to rs is how they behave," he its enrichment activities. said, according to Der Sp--AP



Former US ambassador to Ukraine Marie Yovanovitch (C) arrives for a closed-door deposition before House committees. The impeachment trial of President Donald Trump is gaining speed each day.

last year charged with violations of campaign finance laws. On the tape, Mr Parnas at one point is heard describing the US ambassador in Ukraine as "the biggest problem th-ere". Without naming Ms Yovanovitch, Mr Parnas said: "She's basically walking around telling everybody, 'Wait, he's going to get impeached, just wait.' Mr Trump is then heard reacting shortly after-wards, saying: "Get rid of her. Get her out tomorrow. I don't care. Get her out tomorrow. Take her out. OK? Do it." The president appeared not to have known the ambassador personally at the time, as he asked for the envoy's name. Why was Marie

Yovanovitch fired? The 33-year veteran of the foreign service was recalled as the American ambassador to Kviv in

#### ainians who sought to re-move her. Ms Yovanovitch said she was shocked that gation she was disloyal to her enemies appeared to find allies in the Trump Mr Trump was false. President Trump has said that administration, including

keep the challenges alive. The 4th US Circuit Court of Appeals will hear arguments Tuesday in three lawsuits filed by US citizens and permanent reside nts whose relatives have been unable to enter the US because of the travel ban, which was first imposed shortly after Trump took office in 2017.

Travel ban heads back to court

vil rights groups hoping to

the president's personal lawyer, Rudy Giuliani.

The ex-envoy's support ers say she was also smeared by US conservative media voices. In her testimony to the impeachment inquiry, she said the alle-

The court is being asked to decide whether a federal judge in Maryland made a mistake when he refused to dismiss constitutional claims filed by the International Refugee Assistance Project despite a 2018 US Supreme Court ruling in a Hawaii case that found travel ban "a legitimate grounding in national security concerns". -AP

the diplomat "didn't want to hang my picture in the embassy" in Kyiv. Trump says envoy Marie Yovanovitch refused to hang his photo. "She said bad things about me, she wouldn't defend me, and I have the right to change the ambassador," Trump told Fox News.

# **Dems want to** overturn poll, say Republicans

Washington. Jan. 26: President Donald Trump's lawyers plunged into his impeachment trial defence Saturday by accusing Democrats of

striving to overturn the 2016 election, arguing that investigations of Trump's dealings with Ukraine have not been a fact-finding mission but a politically motivated effort to drive him from the White House. "They're here to perpetrate the most massive interference in an election in American history," White House counsel Pat Cipollone told sena-tors. "And we can't allow

that to happen. The Trump legal team's arguments in the rare Saturday session were aimed at rebutting allegations that the president abused his power when he asked Ukraine to investigate political rival Joe Biden and then obstructed Congress as it tried to investigate.

The lawyers are mounting wide-ranging, а aggressive defence asserting an expansive view of presidential powers and portraying Trump as besieged by political opponents determined to ensure he won't be reelected this November.

"They're asking you to tear up all the ballots across this country on your own initiative, take that decision away from the American people,' Cipollone said.

Though Trump is the one on trial, the defence team made clear that it to paint the intends impeachment case as a

(Any fair minded per-son watching the Senate trial today would be able to see how unfairly I have been treated and that this is indeed the totally partisan Impeachment Hoax that EVERYBODY, including the Democrats, truly knows it is." - DONALD TRUMP US President

mere continuation of the investigations that have shadowed the president since before he took office — including one into alle-gations of Russian election interference on his behalf. Trump attorney Jay Sekulow suggested Democrats were investigating the president over Ukraine simply because they couldn't bring him down for Russia.

"That — for this," said Sekulow, holding up a copy of special counsel Robert Mueller's report, which he accused Democrats of attempting to "relitigate

That report detailed ties between the 2016 Trump campaign and Russia but did not allege a criminal conspiracy to tip the elec-

tion. From the White House, Trump tweeted his response: "Any fair minded person watching the Senate trial today would be able to see how unfairly

have been treated and that this is indeed the totally partisan Impeachment Hoax that EVERY BODY, including the Democrats, truly knows it

# Israel green light for visits to Saudi

Jerusalem, Jan. 26: Israel on Sunday officially gave its citizens the rig

Richmond, Jan. 26: After

the U.S. Supreme Court upheld President Donald

Trump's ban on travellers

from several predominant-

ly Muslim countries in

2018, the ruling appeared

to shut down legal challen-

ges that claimed the policy

was rooted in anti-Muslim bias. But a federal appeals

court in Richmond is set

to hear arguments from ci-

May 2019 for reasons that

remain murky. She testi-

fied that her anti-corrup-

tion efforts had incurred

the ire of influential Ukr-

Israel strafes Hamas

#### **DOZENS PULLED FROM TURKEY QUAKE RUBBLE**

Ankara Jan.26: Working against the clock in freezing temperatures, Turkish rescue teams pulled more survivors from collapsed buildings Sunday, days after a powerful magnitude 6.8 earthquake hit the country's east. Rescued survivors wept with gratitude for their efforts.

Turkish authorities said the death toll rose to at least 38 people from the magnitude 6.8 earthquake that struck Friday night. Turkish television showed Ayse Yildiz, 35, and her 2year-old daughter Yusra being dragged out of the rubble of a collapsed apartment building in the city of Elazig. They had bee-

n trapped for 28 hours. The quake also injured over 1,600 people but at least 45 survivors have been pulled alive from the rubble so far, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan told a news conference Sunday in Istanbul. More than 780 aftershocks rocked the region as over 3,500 rescue experts scrambled through wrecked buildings to reach survivors, working around the clock. Rescue teams concentrated their efforts in the city's Mustafa Pasa neighbourhood and the nearby town of Sivrice.One rescued couple was reunited with a Syrian student who had helped to dig them out of their collapsed home with his hands."He is our hero and angel," a weeping Dudane Aydin said of Mahmud al Osman to Anadolu news agency. -AP

to travel to Saudi Arabia for religious and business visits. in the latest sign of warming ties between the two states.

The interior ministry's announcement will have limited practical impact, as Israelis had previously been travelling to Saudi Arabia via third countries, especially Jordan. But Israel had never granted official approval for such travel by both Jewish and Muslim Israelis. Interior Minister Aryeh Deri "signed for the first time an order enabling an exit per mit for Israelis to Saudi

Arabia", his office said. The move, coordinated with the security and diplomatic services, approves travel to Saudi "for religious purposes during Muslim pilgrimages", it said in a statement. It said Israel would also allow its citizens to travel to Saudi Arabia "to participate in business meetings or seek investments" for trips not exc-eeding 90 days. Business travellers must have "arranged their entry to Saudi Arabia and received an invitation from a govern- our state," Netanyahu, attend the White House



Israel raided Hamas targets in the Gaza Strip.

Jerusalem, Jan. 26: Israel carried out air raids on Hamas targets in the Gaza Strip late Saturday, in response to the launching of incendiary devices attached to balloons sent over from the Palestinian enclave, the army said.

"A short while ago, combat planes hit a number of targets of the Hamas terrorist organisation in the southern Gaza Strip," the military said in a state-ment. Among the targets was an arms factory, the

Saturday that the "peace

army added, stressing that the air raids were in response to the launching of the incendiary balloons towards Israeli territory.

Hamas has controlled Gaza since 2008, and Israel holds the Islamist movement responsible for all roc ket fire coming from the territory, although it has targeted other militant groups there. On Tuesday, Israeli troops shot dead three Palestinians who crossed into Israel from Gaza.

### Bibi sees history in Trump peace plan talks. Gantz told a news conference in Tel Aviv on

Jerusalem, Jan. 26: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said he expected US President Donald Trump's peace plan for the Middle East to be 'historic" ahead of a trip to Washington.

"An opportunity such as this comes once in history and cannot be missed... I am full of hope that we are on the verge of a historic moment in the annals of

who has been invited to meet Trump at the White House on Tuesday to discuss the plan, said in a stat-ement. Trump on Thursday said he will release his long-delayed plan before meeting Netanyahu in Washington. "It's a great plan. It's a plan that really would work," Trump said. Netanyahu's political

plan devised by President Trump will go down in history as a meaningful landmark". He expected the initiative to allow "different players in the Middle East to finally move ahead towards an historic regional agreement". The Palerival Benny Gantz has also stinian leadership was not received an invitation to invited and has already rejected Trump's plan amid

tense relations with the US president over his recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's undivided capital. 'This step only reaffirms our absolute rejection of

what the US administration has done so far, particularly the recognition of Je rusalem as Israel's capital," Palestinian President Mahmud Abbas' spokesman said in a statement earl ier this week.

— AFF

#### Kim Kyong Hui played a key role in grooming Kim Jong-un as the next leader LOST AND FOUND Kim's aunt reemerges after years of speculation



North Korean leader Kim Jong-un (C), his wife Ri Sol Ju (2nd from L) and his aunt Kim Kyong Hui (2nd from R) at a Lunar New Year's Day concert in Pyongyang, North Korea.

Seoul, South Korea, Jan. **26:** North Korean leader Kim Jong-un's aunt made her first public appearance in about six years, media reported state Sunday, quelling years of rumours that she was purged or executed by her nephew after helping him inĥerit power from his father.

According to a Korean Central News Agency dispatch, the name of Kim Kyong Hui was included in a list of top North Korean officials who watched a performance marking Lunar New Year's Day with Kim JongKIM KYONG HUI'S fate had been in doubt after Kim Jong Un had her husband and the North's No. 2 official, Jang Song Thaek, executed for treason and corruption in December 2013.

un at a Pyongyang theatre on Saturday.

North Korea's main newspaper also released a photo showing Kim Kyong Hui sitting near Kim Jongun and his wife, Ri Sol Ju,

at the Samjiyon Theatre. Kim Kyong Hui, 73, was once an influential figure in North Korea as the only sister of late North Korean leader Kim Jong Il, the father of Kim Jong-un. She had initially kept a low profile during the early part of her brother's rule, but Kim Kyong Hui later frequently accompanied him on his inspection trips after he suffered a stroke in 2008. While taking up many

top posts such as a fourstar army general and a member of the powerful Politburo, she was also believed to have played a

key role in grooming Kim Jong Un as the next leader. Kim Jong-un eventually took power after his father died of a heart attack in late 2011, in the North's second father-to-son power transfer.

Kim Kyong Hui's fate had been in doubt after Kim Jong-un had her husband and the North's No. 2 official, Jang Song Thaek, executed for treason and corruption in December 2013. His death was reported by the North and remains the most significant in a series of executions or purges that Kim Jong-un has engineered in

what outside believe were attempts to remove potential rivals and cement his grip on power.

Days after Jang's execution, Kim Kyong Hui's name was mentioned in a KCNA dispatch as a member of a funeral committee for another top official. But she missed a state ceremony commemorating the second anniversary of Kim Jong Il's death days later. Her name had since never been mentioned in North Korean state media until Sunday's KCNA report.

-AP

















#### **ALBERT CAMUS | CARL SAGAN**

Virtue cannot separate itself from reality The universe seems neither benign without becoming a principle of evil nor hostile, merely indifferent



# Chronicle 27 JANUARY 2020 This R-Day, we are on a slippery path

• o Republic Day since 1950, when we adopted our Constitution and declared ourselves a republic, has had a strange feeling as this one does. The country has had many a tryst with bad times and with public dissatisfaction. In the end, the people showed resilience and won. This was because when people protested official poli-cies, governments eventually moderated their stance. This is more than what we can say for the present.

On the 71st anniversary of the founding of the modern republic, there is a palpable sense of confusion and despair. This is principally on account of the fact that the government refuses to give any evidence that it even knows that a serious crisis is at hand, and that there is turmoil in the country — not only on the economic level but on the political and, more worryingly, social plane too.

There has been a concerted effort of late to all but declare that we have become a land for the country's principal religious community while at the same time marking out the largest minority religious group as the other. This has been done not so subtly by amending the citizenship law to con-sciously drain from it the spirit of the Constitution. Our basic law decreed that the State in India had no favoured religion. It is this which is being sought to be stood on its head by our democratically elected government.

It is noteworthy that the nationwide protests, in which tens of thousands of Indians of every religious denomination and every class and caste have participated, is not on bread and butter issues although the economy is practically in lockdown mode. The spectacular mobilisations have been on the single point platform of protecting the Constitution, whose Preamble is being read out aloud every single day for the past 40 days at gatherings in every major city of the country.

Just as spectacularly, the government is defiantly unheeding. Instead of attempts at dialogue, taunts and threats are being issued to protesters from the highest levels in government, day in and day out. This is the way of totalitarianism. An altogether different kind of response might be in order from a democratically elected dispensation.

Alas, President Ram Nath Kovind has hesitated from pointing this out to the Narendra Modi government in his address to the nation. He has only urged "those fighting for a cause, particularly the youth" not to forsake the path of *ahimsa* that Mahatma Gandhi espoused. The protests raging nation-wide have been peaceful by and large. Why then the Rashtrapati's caution to citizens but no word of advice to those whose public actions appear to be that of a ruling elite rather than merely an elected political majority?

Striking a very different note, President Kovind's predecessor, Pranab Mukherjee, has recently opined that the young of India peacefully rising in protest, a copy of the Constitution in hand, is proof of democracy strik-ing deeper roots. Which way the elephant turns when the people have become acutely conscious of democracy but the government acts in violation of the constitutional ethos, is hard to predict. This Republic Day, we are on a slippery path.

## Probe must cover all angles

The Centre's decision to unceremoniously hand over the investiga-Learning of the Bhima-Koregaon riot case to the NIA is yet another example of its blatant misuse of government machinery to push its political agenda or to muzzle voices of dissent. The case pertains to rioting that broke out on January 1, 2018 during a gathering of dalits at Bhima-Koregaon in Pune to mark the bicentenary of a British victory over the Peshwas. Dalits believe that the influence of Peshwas, Brahmins who adopted unjust policies towards their perceived inferiors, ended after the battle on January 1, 1818, and that the victors were predominantly from the Mahar community. The annual gathering to commemorate the victory was started by B.R. Ambedkar in 1938.

Dalit activists alleged that the 2018 riots were instigated by right-wing leaders Sambhaji Bhide and Milind Ekbote. The Pune police in its inves-tigation alleged that the riots were orchestrated by "Urban Naxals" and arrested nine renowned social activists.

The timing of the Centre's decision raises questions about its intentions. For two years, an NIA probe was not deemed necessary, but the agency was abruptly handed over the investigation within few hours after the incumbent Maha Vikas Aghadi government indicated that there would be a new probe to ascertain if the state police had built up false cases against social activists and writers to cover up of the actions of right-wing leaders. State home minister Anil Deshmukh has said that the state will challenge the Centre's decision in the Supreme Court. The Congress-led Chhattisgarh government has challenged the constitutionality of the NIA Act, which it claims violates states' sovereignty in the subject of policing. The Centre's actions in the Bhima-Koregaon case lends credence to the Chhattisgarh government's argument. The apex court must take a strong view on this and order a court-monitored investigation.



# 2020 Budget can be Modi's 1991 redux



an entire generation, for the first time in nearly three decades, per-sonal economic insecurity has escaped from the cage of confusing statistical interpretations and debates on classifi-cations of slowdown — is it cyclic, or is it struc-tural? — and has gripped them at a per-concloued sonal level.

Those who don't understand economics, or discern the difference slowdown, between stagflation and depression, also know this much from the pinch they feel — we are all in trouble. Beyond political arguments, TV debates, contrasting op-ed pieces, seminars on economy, views of experts, common Indians are feeling the pressure, and it is tightening. Common people are responding in simple commonsensical ways to inoculate themselves against a possible worsening of e situation — by cutting costs, forgoing or postponing purchases, stepping on the pedal on caution in investments, increasing savings, avoiding risks. The government has accumulated a plethora of challenges on the economic front. Added together, it leaves no one in doubt that the slowdown is upon us beyond any scope for denial. The government has a duty to solve the prob-lem, and the first step is to acknowledge the existence of a problem. Having done so, if not publicly, within, the Narendra Modi government, instead of getting bogged down by the largeness of it, must harness it as a great opportunity to do a 1991 redux. Or call it Reforms 2.0. It is indeed an opportunity disguised as chal-

doing as badly as ours is today, reforms are expected, demanded and expected. Reforms, big bad bold ones, are not only inevitable as a solution out of this rut, but can also provide an aura of political vision and boldness to those who unleash it. Beyond academic

debates, the Indian economy needs two major changes — more invest-ment and more expenditure. Investments from industrialists and businesses, domestic and would create global, jobs, capacity and supply; increased expenditure from common peo-ple would boost demand and consumption, and create a demand for more investment. That is the problem too. Industry does not

want to invest and common people don't want to spend. Which is why we have been continually slowing down.

The government has to kill t tried OW-

down beast with a think-

Here, the first major move in the Budget must be the complete aboli-tion of income tax. This move can singularly put around ₹5 lakh crore a year, ₹20 lakh crore in the next four years, into the hands of earning Indians to spend. If this be the highlight of the

Budget, it would not just make headlines, but his-

If the risk feels too great, not from fiscal deficit concerns, but political, another way is to still route that money into the hands of citi-zens by half. Cut all income tax rates by half, thus ensuring half the money is pushed into the hands of taxpayers. But declare the other But declare the other half collected by income tax as being collected only for direct cash transfer into the hands of the poor. Split the cake of ₹5 lakh crore typ-ically collected annually as additional wallet shared by rich and poor. The captains of industry would be reinvigorated to revitalise their under-utilised capacity or build new ones to grab a share of this new additional purchasing power unleashed into the economy. Either approach, an astronomic quantum of money

two to three years would bring back the global, and business, focus back to India's economic story. Let the govern-ment exit business as a player completely in big

Thirdly, the 2020 Modi Budget must set a new template to minimise government by rationalising the scope of taxes Historically, both ideo-logical and pragmatic considerations have denied any consensus on how much to tax, how

much to subsidise. There can, however, be a simple rationalisation based on ending double transactions that nullify themselves. In simple words, if you

impose one tax, and pro-vide one subsidy to the same person — the net effect will be nullified on the citizen, but enlarges the government. Taxing subsidiary beneficiaries and subsidiary beneficial test ers is a zero-sum game, which only leads to harmful augmenting of government size, enlarg ing the bureaucracy like cancer, but benefits neither citizens nor the economy.

the

'least governed is best

The only words to guide him to courage during this daunting

task are three questions,

if not now, when; if not

here, where; and if not he, who? In the lead-up

to the Lok Sabha elec-

tions, the BJP had declared — Modi *hain to* 

*mumkin hain* — the Budget on February 1 will be the acid test for

can he, and will he?

Post

must all he

Budget, reforms in labour, land acquisition, setting up and running businesses

The deadly virus from Wuhan is spreading rapidly to many parts of the world. There is a high chance of the virus spreading in India as the affected people show symptoms after 10 days or more. Till the virus dies down, let Indians returning from China be quarantined for the duration of the incubation period of the disease. Screening them

LETTERS

**SPREADING VIRUS** 

at airports won't suffice. T. Shreya Hyderabad

#### THE A TO Z STORY

Kudos to DC for giving a descriptive meaning of Constitution with appropriate caricatures by Subhani on the 71st Republic Day. Thanks to Aditya Sinha for his tongue-in-cheek glossary when half of India is protesting against CAA-NRC-NPR. Vishwanath Pandit Hvderabad

Hats off to DC for publishing the A to Z of the Constitution. Every alphabet has rightly explained the constitutional value and how people are defending it. It is a good read and clearly states what is going on today.

D. Manoj Kumar Secunderabad

#### KCR'S STAND

At last, Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao has broken his silence on the CAA (KCR to call anti-CAA CMs' meeting, January 26). The ideology of a handful of fascist force cannot

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ing that it can spend its way to growth and prosperity - wherein instead of trusting and creating an ecosystem where businesses would love to invest and people would love to spend — they would do both. It has failed, as it was wont to. The mindset of the Narendra Modi government must metamorphose from a trust premium in the bureaucratic muscle to spend taxed money to achieve prosperity for all, or hope to create a \$5 trillion economy based on demand created by government expenditure in infra-structure. It must shift the onus of responsibility, power and trust to the private citizen. It must reform. The simplest way to hit the ball out of the park on expenditure and lenge. After all, tinkerinvestment is to reverse the thinking and push ing with a good economy

expenditure through cit-

izens and investments

through the private sec-

tor.

govern ment to citizen, without any string, is the best way to address demand and consumption.

The second, to boost private investments as push must be given to well as to make up for ending discretionary political and bureaurevenue losses, is to privatise public enterprises, not tactically, but cratic power in the econwholesale, and as a prin-ciple. A declaration of omy Living up to his own oft-proclaimed mantra,

not just intent that barring five enterprises governed", Mr Modi can, maximum, including railways and in defence and must, set back the the government would Indian economy on sell off everything, espetrack with a sui generis cially banks, insurance, Budget, matching the media, steel, energy, telecom, civil aviation, 1991 reforms declaration, pushed as we are to mines within the next the brink, and snatch the initiative.

**Beyond political** arguments, TV debates, contrasting op-ed pieces, seminars on economy, views of experts, common Indians are feeling the pressure, and it is tightening

ied at cut ting government power, implemented forcefully in a large reducing need for licensdemocratic country like India. es and permissions, low-They must understand that Hindustan is for all. It is not ering needless compliances, and reducing somebody's "jagir' bureaucratic power. Ă

Sved Amiad Ali Secunderabad

#### **AITUC to discuss** wage problems

MAKHDOOM NAGAR, GUNTUR, JANUARY 26.

Total opposition to the main recommendations of the National Labour Commission will mark the proceedings of the 28th session of the All-India Trade Uni-

on Congre- JI YEARS AGO IN SS beginning here tomorrow. tomorrow. AITUC

Secretary Satish Loomba said the victories achieved by the working classes in Kerala and West Bengal and the manner in which governments in those two States acted in defence of workers showed the alternate way to recommendations of the Labour Commission.

Anita Katyal **Political Gup-Shup** 

**Current BJP's** mantra is 'my way or the highway'

nown to be superstitious, politicians are currently worried when told that the planetary changes which took place last week bear a remarkable similarity to those witnessed 30 years ago. This has become a source of considerable concern for the ruling BJP as the country was in the throes of an economic crisis three decades ago. At the same time, students had hit streets to protest against the implementation of the Mandal Commission report while senior BJP leader L.K. Advani embarked on a rath yatra to revive the Ram temple issue. This led to political instability with the country seeing a change of several Prime Ministers. This may well be mumbo-jumbo and the ruling party's fears are possibly exaggerated but it has not stopped its members from consulting their astrologers and keeping a sharp eye on planetary configurations.

ongress president Sonia Gandhi sent a special condolence message on the recent death of Ashwini Kumar Chopra Minna, senior journalist and former BJP MP from Karnal. While she spoke about Minna's distinguished innings as an editor and social worker, Ms Gandhi also mentioned that his friendship cut across political boundaries. The Congress chief had a reason for referring to his friendly ties with political leaders of all hues. It has been known for some years now that as neighbours in Lodhi Estate, Minna and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra had developed a warm friendship. Minna constantly mentioned this fact in the course of a conversation, making it a point to underline that this friendship had remained intact even after he joined the BJP. In fact, Ms Vadra is said to have put in a word with the Manmohan Singh government when Minna's security cover was to

is too risky, not doing

anything is an option

when things are good.

But, in an economy

be scaled down. The move was promptly vetoed on the ground that there was a threat to Minna's life as his father and well-known Punjab editor Lala Jagat Narian was gunned down by militants.

fter a prolonged run of bad luck, finally, there is some hope for former Maharashtra chief minister Prithviraj Chavan. Congress president Sonia Gandhi recently named him chairman of a committee to oversee the implementation of the party election manifesto in Madhya Pradesh. To outsiders, this may not appear to be a significant development but for those familiar with the Congress ecosystem, this appointment sig-nals Mr Chavan's rehabilitation.

hen Arun Jaitley vacated When Arun Janley Vacated bungalow on Krishna Menon Marg last June and shifted

to his own place in Kailash Colony, he was told he would be allocated a new bungalow in his capacity as a Rajya Sabha member and a former minister. The urban development ministry zeroed in on 22, Akbar Road, a bungalow which is on every minister's wish list because of its extensive lawns. Former steel minister, Birender Singh, who was occupying the bungalow, moved out when told that the place had been earmarked for Arun Jaitley. who wanted an official residence primarily because he wished to use it for his son Rohan's wedding. Jaitley passed away last August but his son's wedding reception will be held at the Akbar Road bungalow on February 15 as decided earlier.

here appears to be no end to the ongoing battle between the BJP and its alliance partner, the Shiromani Akali Dal. Already miffed with the BJP at

being ignored, the Akalis are upset that the BJP wanted their candidates to contest next month's Delhi Assembly election on the BJP's lotus symbol on the plea that this would give them a better chance in the field. This suggestion was not liked by the Akalis, who felt it was an insult to their party's identity. As a result, they have decided not to participate in the Delhi election. An Akali leader admitted that their party had given in to a similar proposal from the BJP in the last Delhi election but they were persuaded to do so by the amiable Arun Jaitley, who, he said, had a way of handling tricky situations. On the other hand, the current BJP dispensation only believes in pushing its allies to accept its decisions, he maintained. It's a proverbial case of my way or the highway.

> The writer is a Delhi-based journalist











#### Google I/O 2020

Google has revealed that its next I/O developer conference will take place from May 12 to 14







#### **CLEARVIEW AI FACING LEGAL CLAIMS**

Delhi, Jan. 26: New Following a damming report on The New York Times, Clearview, in a blog post, rejected the idea it produce a public, consumer-facing facial recognition app that could be accessed by anyone. However, that may be the least of its trouble as the controversial facial recognition app is also facing challenges from plat-forms in the wake of the NYT report. Twitter has sent Clearview a

cease-and-desist letter demanding that the company stop scraping its platform for photos to include in its database. Twitter also demanded the company delete any exist-ing data it may have obtained from the platform because using it to fill out a third-party database without user consent is against Twitter's policies. Clearview has acknowledged

publicly that it built out its database in part by scraping social media profiles. Agencies



#### **AIRDROP RIVAL TO DEBUT WITH GALAXY S20**

New Delhi, Jan. 26: After months of speculation, XDA Developers reported that Samsung, which has been developing its own alternative to Apple's AirDrop file sharinc

# **Google search results** tweak creates uproar

Backtracks on its plans to make ads look similar to results

ARCHAK SENGUPTA | DC HYDERABAD, JAN, 26

On Friday, Google stirred up a controversy by announcing its plans to use the same design language for its ads as it is for its organic results. The search engine giant,

which in recent years has seen its ad revenue growth slow down, is ready to use the same tricks that it once battled to become the premier search service.

In the past, Google used much more obvious, visually distinct methods to differentiate its ads from the search results. This was one of the reasons behind its success as users didn't trust other search engines due to 'paid inclusion' in their organic results.

While the new ad layout didn't cross the 'paid inclusion' line, it is deceptive enough to fool the occasional careless users. Senator Mark Warner (D-VA) took a break from impeachment hearings to talk to The Washington Post about just how bad the new search redesign was. "We've seen multiple instances over the last few years where Google has made paid advertisements ever more indistinguishable from organic search results," Warner told the Post. "This is yet another example of a platform exploiting its bottleneck power for commercial gain to the detriment of both consumers and also small businesses.

Following the uproar, the company acknowledged that its latest experiment might have gone too far and noted that it will "experiment further" on how it displays results.

However, the company, which had a founding mantra of 'Don't be Evil', seems to have embraced the dark side thanks to its sharp focus to grow the company's ad revenue.





search results makes Google more money. earlier this week.

tracking capacity being built

into all identification sys-

As the government helped

the rise of the IT sector by

becoming the first customer

and using technology for

their e-Governance initia-

tives. It is now emulating a

similar strategy to help the

private sector adapt to the

global changes in technolo-

gy. But in doing so the gov-

ernment is directly adopt-

ing some of the private sec-tor practices like surveil-

Surveillance capitalism

enables Big Tech to track

individuals based on their

data by offering them free

services in return. Like the

private sector is profiting

from free data they are col-

lecting from us, the govern-

ment too is trying to sell our

data to private sector under the name of AI. But it is not

about capitalism anymore

with the usage of this data

lance capitalism.

tems for national security.

# Stretchable battery may help develop skin sensors

Washington, Jan. 26: Researchers have devel-oped a soft and stretchable battery which relies on a **FAKE SKIN IS A STEP CLOSER** special type of plastic to store power safely compared to flammable components used in conventional batteries, an advance that may lead to sensors that stick to the human skin and monitor heart rate.

According to the study, published in the journal *Nature Communications,* adoption of wearable electronics like smartwatches has so far been limited by their need to derive power from bulky, rigid batteries. It said these rigid batter-ies reduce comfort and may present safety hazards due to chemical leak age or combustion. "Until now we haven't had a power source that could stretch and bend the way our bodies do, so that we can design electronics that people can comfortably wear," said chemical engineer Zhenan Bao, a coauthor of the study from Stanford University in the US.

The researchers said

**THANKS TO FLEXIBLE CIRCUITS** Jan. London, 26: Researchers have developed the first flexible electronic chip made of magnetic sensors and organic, polymer-based circuits, an advance which paves the way for the development of artificial skin.

The ultrathin integrated circuit, or microchip, is described in the journal *Science,* as a matrix system made up of several tiny components including magnetic sensors, and sig-nal amplifiers on a single platform. According to the

devices, have used polymers as electrolytes, which are the energy source that transports negative ions to the battery's positive pole.

However, they added that these polymer elec-trolytes have been flowable gels that could, in some cases, leak or burst into flame. In the current study, the

lithium ion batteries, con-ventionally used in these mer that is solid and

Data Protection Bill set to bring yet another shock for companies

The redundancy

enterprises a lot

more than big

companies are

likely to be able

to afford to build

small and

firms. Big

processing

medium

is going to impact



debate and protests around the Citizenship Amend-ment Act and the National Register of Citizens have dominated headlines around the nation, and rightfully so. While public attention and the news cycle continue to revolve around the issue, the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has released a Protection Bill. Since reading the bill, Justice B.N. Srikrishna (chair of the committee that drafted the initial report on data protection) has claimed it to have the potential to turn India into an Orwellian State. The statement is based on legitimate grounds, and that should give most people sleepless nights. The Personal Data Protection Bill does give the government the power to exempt itself from the legislation. It also gives the State significant powers to demand data, and also places significant restrictions on cross border data flows. All of this is troubling on multiple levels and is being written about in columns and articles throughout India's tech policy space. What is not getting enough attention, however, is that the bill is also bad news for the Indian economy, that too when it is the last thing India needs right now. There are several counts on which the bill, in its current form, will have a negative impact on the economy. Most importantly among them, is the timeline for enforcement. The 2018 version of the Bill, provided for a period for adjustment and compliance before the enforcement of the Bill's provisions. Section 97's transitional provisions provided industries a period of 18 months before mandating compliance. Having a defined period of time that affords industry the space to be in compliance is an objectively good policy. You could have a debate on how long that period should be, but it should be common ground to have a transition plan. For example, Europe's Data Protection Law, the GDPR, was adopted in April 2016 but was enforced almost 2 years later, in May 2018. What this tells us is that policy does not work like for

legally not be able to do so. Secondly, even if the DPA is formed, there must be thousands of companies that would want to apply for an intra-group scheme, with new compa-nies forming every month. It would put a lot of undue strain on the DPA to individually assess each company's proposal and include them in an intragroup scheme. This redundancy

scientists, including those

from the Leibniz Institute

for Solid State and Materials Research in

Germany, the flexible elec-

tronic circuit has a high

against mechanical defor-

mation, such as bending, creasing, or kinking.

According to the research-

ers, the matrix can effi-

ciently map the magnetic

field with real-time encod-

ing of the positions and

stretchable rather than

gooey and potentially leaky. According to the

study, the polymer elec-

trolyte carries an electric

charge between the bat-

tery's poles. The researchers demonstrated

in lab tests that the experi-

mental battery maintained

a constant power output

even when squeezed, fold-

ed, and stretched to nearly

twice its original length.

magnetic

-PTI

motions of

objects.

tery's

magnetic sensitivity. They said it is also robust

going to impact small and medium enterprises a lot more than big firms. Big companies are likely to be able to afford to build processing capacity in India or afford costlier versions to maintain their standards. Small and medium

Indian firms, are not

always going to have the

money to comply within

On a related note, the

bill also creates three tiers

of data, personal, person-

al sensitive, and critical

personal data. While the

first two are defined with-

in the bill, critical person-

al data is not. Às you would expect, critical per-

sonal data is going to be

the tier with the most

restrictions and burden of

For instance, while per-

sonal and personal sensi-

tive data can be subject to

cross border transfers,

critical personal data is

not. So it puts any compa-

ny that deals with data

under a lot of anxiety. It would force them to stay

in limbo until the third

tier is defined, and will

have an impact on how

they go about their day to

compliance.

dav business.

the given timeframe.

with the upcoming Galaxy S20 smartphone.

Screenshots of the feature show that it will work similarly to AirDrop, allowing you to "share instantly with people nearby," so long as their device has Quick Share turned on.

Users will also be able to restrict who can send you files to just people in your contacts, or else leave it wide open so that strangers can send you pictures of space sloths.

Despite how useful AirDrop has been on iOS and macOS since its initial launch in 2011, Android has struggled to come up with a viable competitor. For a while Android included an NFC-based version called Android Beam, but this was discontinued with Android 10. — Agencies

#### @searchliaison

Last week we updated the look of Search on desktop to mirror what's been on mobile for months. We've heard your feedback about the update. We always want to make Search better, so we're going to experiment with new placements for favicons.

#### @craigmod

There's something strange about the recent design change to google search results, favicons and extra header text: they all look like ads, which is perhaps the point?

# Real-time governance or surveillance?

One may agree or

disagree with these



vderabad revolutionised e-governance in India, by promoting egovernance not only the state benefited in good governance but took the private sector along with it. A new paradigm of governance is now emerging in both Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, called Real-Time governance.

In Real-Time governance everyone and every file is tracked real-time to offer welfare to the public and process their complaints. This form of governance promises a predictive style of governance where your issue will be solved before you even realise it.

What exactly is this new style of governance if one asks, it is to identify everyone at every stage of their

interaction with the government using a digital identity system.

The digital identity system could be Adhaar or Facial Recognition which is being used primarily in Telangana. The universal usage of fingerprints and facial recognition even by the police to determine the identity realtime transforms this style of governance into surveil lance. The recent usage of facial recognition in Telangana municipal elections was even called the Real-Time Digital Authentication of Voter Identity.

Led by the retired bureaucrat J. Satyanarayana in Andhra Pradesh initially, this form of governance is now being recommended across the country. Andhra

analogies but the increased collection of data by government without data protection laws is deeply problematic. This lack of a law essentially means no recourse to individuals affected by bureaucratic decisions and no accountability on the government's

actions.

Pradesh, Telangana, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu are few early states to adopt this style of governance, it is already being hailed as the next best practice to be used across India. In one of the presentations.

J. Satyanarayana described this style of governance



would help the government by police and intelligence agencies, it becomes direct track someone from birth to death. He was accurate in usage for surveillance. saying that considering the One may agree or disagree

with these analogies but the increased collection of data by government without data protection laws is deeply problematic. This lack of a law essentially means no recourse to individuals affected by bureaucratic decisions and no accountability on the government's actions. In case of the usage of data by the police department, it needs to be iterated there is no law under which they can profile any citizens on the streets or at their own house without a law on surveillance. With neither of these laws, the actions of the various departments across India is slowly turning us into a surveillance society.

(The writer is an independent researcher working on data, governance and internet. All views are the author's own and do not necessarily reflect the newspaper's)

capacity in or afford costlier versions to maintain their standards. Small and medium enterprises, especially Indian firms, are not always going to have the money to comply within the given timeframe.

a light switch. Flicking it on does not always magi-cally make sure that it will have the intended effects. The current version of the Bill does away with a transitional period altogether. This gives any company that collects data no time to adhere to the bill's requirements. If implemented without a transition period, the bill would provide the government with grounds to penalise companies and impose punishments for not complying with directives that did not exist a

day before the bill was introduced. Bangalore, being the hub of the Indian IT sector is likely to be impacted the most, with Mumbai, Hyderabad, and Delhi-NCR in tow. Not only does the bill offer no transition period,

but it also makes it a lot harder to carry out data processing outside of India. If companies want to outsource data processing of personal sensitive data to a different country, they need to do so under an intra-group scheme with the Data Protection Authority (DPA).

There are two things to consider here. Firstly, the DPA will be set up following the bill. Staffing it and providing it with the correct infrastructure and resources could take months from when the bill is enforced. Since there is no transition period, until the DPA is formed, companies who outsource data processing would

The digital economy is inextricably linked with the traditional economy. All of this, removing a runway for compliance, placing redundancy-ridden restrictions on the cross border flow of personal sensitive data, and not defining critical personal data is bound to have a negative impact on the Indian economy. If the bill is passed in its current form, we are looking at FDI drying up within this sector. Big companies might have deeper pockets, but localization laws will also go a long way to make sure that they keep their

India-bound spending and outsourcing in check. On the other hand, it is also likely to incentivize small companies and startups to register their businesses elsewhere. All of this is coming at a time when the Indian economy needs it the least.

(The writer is a technology policy analyst at the Takshashila Institution. All views are the author's own and do not necessarily reflect the newspaper's)

















Millions of moviegoers called the number shown at the end of Free Willy (1993) where \$20 million was donated for the Save the Whales Foundation



DECCAN CHRONICLE

MONDAY | 27 JANUARY 2020 | HYDERABAD

### **OUR CRITIC'S RATING** Outstanding ★★★★★ Great ★★★★ Good ★★★ Okay ★★ Poor ★ Truly Terrible TT

Team Panga, take a thigh-five

#### **SUPARNA SHARMA**

he title of writer-director Ashwiny Iyer Tiwari's third film, Panga, insinuates that some dramatic fireworks await us. And since the film stars Kangana Ranaut, it's only natural that we

approach it expecting some high jinks and spirited brawls. *Panga* has all that, but of the sweet, gentle variety. The kind that doesn't seem sensational, but is, in fact, momentous — big, massive shifts in small, little lives.

*Panga* is a charming, warm, *gharelu* dramatisation of the thing that seethes for years and then dies within the walls of many homes — unfulfilled dreams of mummyjis born out of what they were capable of, the life they could have had, what they had to give up for their family and grihasti.

In Panga, that dream, that yearning, is pivoted on real talent and achievements and is nurtured by more than just self-belief. It is cra-dled by a supporting family. One half of *Panga* is devoted to

reminiscing and yearning for the life left behind. The pain, heartache make this part throb with low-grade but continuous dis-appointment and despair that, in the everydayness of life, gets exhausted and retires exhausted on most nights.

The other half of the film is in pursuit of that dream, going from one city to another, one training session to a bout, followed by more bouts.

Here it loses some of its magic as it turns into a competitive sports

Though the sports bits are quite nicely done — much better that what many big directors have managed in bigger films — Panga's strength lies in its well-defined characters played by evoldefined characters played by excellent actors.

The first part is nicely populated by them, while the second part relies almost entirely on Kangana Ranaut. Though she is fabulous throughout, without the others the film loses some steam. But there's an honest purpose to this slowing down, to showing the mundanity of the pursuit of a dream, of the high that hardly ever comes. *Panga* doesn't try to portray making mid-life choices

inevitable. There are no mean spouses to run

away from, no revenge that awaits extraction.

It shows the difficulty of making that choice, on the mummyji and the family. It also shows that just because you decided to venture out, no one will be waiting with garlands for you.

But, it says, with all the attendant problems, heartaches and absolutely no guarantee of success, if you do find yourself often thinking of a life that could have been, and there is even a sliver of chance that you can, maybe, attempt to grab a tiny piece of it, go for it.

Set in Bhopal, *Panga* tells the story of Jaya Nigam (Kangana Ranaut), a railway employee who hands out train tickets at a railway station. She is the mother of a seven-

year-old Adi (Yagya Bhasin), and the wife of sweet Prashant (Jessie Gill). She loves them both and her life is in a loop of a daily routine that leaves little time to chew the cud of life that once was. But every once in a while, after

she has put little post-its in their tiffin boxes, after she has cut work to take her son to the doctor, and after the relaxing evening walk with her husband, something plays in her dreams that makes her throw sudden kicks while asleep.

The film's story takes a turn when Jaya misses Adi's sports day because of work and though she tries to make up to him, he is insulting and rude.

Prashant, the caring husband who often plays mediator between Jaya and the world, tells Adi the story of his and Jaya's romance, and about his mother who was, me chew up seven years and two months ago, one corthe captain of India's Kabaddi ner team

Enter, Serena Williams. Adi stalks Williams' post child-birth life online and at home he stalks Prashant with the suggestion that a comeback at 32 years age is not unthinkable. When Prashant ignores him, Adi piles on guilt

#### Panga **(U) 132 min**

CAST: Kangana Ranaut, Jassi Gill, Richa Chadda, Neena Gupta, Yagya Bhasin ECTOR: Ashwiny Iyer Tiwari ATING: \*\*\*

Panga doesn't show a dramatic, let's conquer-the-world return of Jaya to the arena where the skies thunder and gods throw rose petals.

It shows a mother who, with determination and a punishing routine, struggles, wavers, but goes on. It shows her emotional struggle at having to leave behind her life and family, of having to make tough choices, sacrifices and the impact it has on others.

We see the hurdles she faces, the snide remarks she endures, the big age gap between her and other players, the insinuation that she has come riding on past accolades, and a captain who is not at all keen on celebrity comebacks.

In this segment, where the wait is long and victories elusive, the film tries to inject some drama by summoning Jaya's former teammate and bestie, Meenu (Richa Chaddha). But as the teams of South Korea and Iran loom, and Jaya sits in the sidelines, tapping her feet and waiting, the film leads up to a climax that's pre-dictable and yet it made

of

Waritten by Nitesh Tiwari and directed by Ashwiny Iyer Tiwari, the husband and wife team that gave us the fab-ulous *Bareilly Ki Barfi* (2017), Panga mostly spurns melodrama, and instead gives us a world we can connect with and live in for a bit.

*Panga*'s heart lies in Jaya and Prashant's middle class life built around domesticity, where everyone tries to catch those five extra minutes of sleep in the morning, then rushes about getting ready, calling out for stuff, screaming instructions before rushing out, leaving clothes, used utensils strewn around in a quiet house, and then returning, one by one, in the evening, bringing the house back to life with chatter, hot meals and laughter.

This world is knitted together beautifully by the screenplay writ-ers, the art director and the costume designer.

The hand-knitted sweaters, a din-ning table ning where bottles

achar and sauce sit always and the switch boards with the darkened area around them carrying telltale signs of life needing both, light and air.

This world is inhabited by char-acters who are distinct and filled with lovely details. And all these characters are assigned to actors

who inhabit them with honesty, sensitivity and skill. Jessie Gill as Prashant, with his big, reassuring smile, is just the perfect foil to the Ranaut's simmering Jaya whose emotions

dance in her eyes all the time. Neena Gupta has a small role, but adds character to Jaya and Prashant's life.

Richa Chadda, who obviously piled on some weight for the role of the kabaddi coach without making a big deal of it, is very good, though her character is the only one that's a bit filmy and often util-itarian — mostly her job is to shine the spotlight on Jaya.

Panga taught me a lot about kabaddi — what is a raid, how a dead player can come alive. But what I really enjoyed watching was the girls' victory gesture — simultaneously slap-ping their thigh and raising a hand in a gesture of, *teri toh*... It's called the thigh-five.

Panga's team can take a moment to take a thigh-five.



PAGE

## This 'Disco Raja' is routine and outdated

#### SURESH KAVIRAYANI I DC

fter delivering two duds, Ravi Teja needed a break and relied on director Vi Anand. Disco Raja has been projected as a science fiction story and features three female leads — Nabha Natesh, Payal

Rajput and Tanya Hope. Two stories run parallel in the film. In one, Vasu (Ravi Teja) is missing and his family is awaiting his return. They suspect that Vasu has been kidnapped by a financier. At the same time, a body is found in Ladakh and brought to a laboratory where scientists are working on reviving the dead. Their experiment on the body from Ladakh is successful. Vasu's family says it is him but the scientists say he is another man. The revived person says he is Disco Raja (Ravi Teja), a gangster in Chennai who was killed by his rivals. That sets the stage for the rest of the film. Director Vi Anand's earlier films were sci-ence fiction-based, like 'Okka Kshanam' or 'Ekkadiki Pothav Chinnavada' or the Tamil 'Appuchi Gramam'. 'Ekkadiki Pothav Chinnavada' was a commercial hit and the others were

# Simple film made grand by its rousing finale

#### **Street Dancer 3D** (U/A) 155 min CAST: Varun Dhawan, Shraddha Kapoor, Prabhu Deva, Nora Fatehi, Aparshakti Khurana, Salman Yusuff CTOR: Remo D'Souza

#### **SUPARNA SHARMA**

ill now, dance and talent reality shows relied on a heavy dose of filmy drama to catch our attention and keep us engaged

But now, it seems, films are all set to regress into reality shows themselves.

Dancer-choreographer-director, Remo D'Souza, who has spent more time as a judge on a wide variety of reality shows than choreographing songs, has created a reality show masquerading as a film in 3D.

Street Dancer, true to the simple minded genre of let's-dance-tochallenge-and-conquer-all, is a chitrahar of grand, impressive, foottapping dance performances strung together by a very silly but melodramatic story that carries a moral — love all, hate none. Especially love Pakistanis, and all those illegal immigrants who languish in dark alleys in foreign countries, cold and hungry and desperate for a ticket home.

The film's story, as I said, is simple. In London lives Sahej (Varun Dhawan) with his family. We barely meet his mummy-daddy, but spend some quality time with his Bade Bhaiyya whom he loves and is keen to do everything in his power to wipe the sad, *bechara* look from his face.

N II

You see, a dance performance some years ago at the world's championship of dance, Bade Bhaiyya's big, dramatic jump crushed his knees

And now it is up to Sahej, who is sweet but also without scruples and slightly dumb, to fulfil Bhaiyya ka har sapna, i.e. winning the world dance championship.

Sahej now leads his bhaiyya's all-Indian group called Street Dancers. We are introduced to all its members in a quick, let's-takethe-roll call sort of way.

Then there is an all-Pakistani group called Rule Breakers. We barely meet them, except for one main character, Inayat (Shraddha Kapoor), and her cousin (Salman Yusuff Khan).

These two dance groups are perennially fighting about who is better though it's quite clear that Rule Breakers are superior to Street Dancers.

Somewhere far away from these two confrontational groups is a much more professional dance group called The Royals. It's made up mostly of racist *goras* plus one *desi* girl who is not just the best dancer in the film but is also an item of interest for Sahej. He calls her Bubu (Nora Fatehi).

Though they seem quite platon-ic, we are told they are a thing. Street Dancers and Rule are Breakers often have dance facerules. offs which Inayat's group wins, but then she returns with her head covered to her conservative Muslim family.

The film is not communal. It is just simple minded.

Despite their fights, the two groups gather to watch India vs Pakistan cricket matches in the same restaurant run by Anna (Prabhu Deva) who, Inayat later discovers, is up to some clandestine stuff at night.

India wins the cricket matches, of course, and the two groups have childish fights here with donuts and at one point Inayat pinches and twists Sahej's nipples. Good on her, I say, and he had it coming for throwing them nipples in our face in the very first scene.

Flashback reveals a certain very stupid thing that Sahej did and it comes back to haunt him. At the same time when, in a plot twist inspired by real-life work of Nishkam SWAT (Sikh Welfare & Awareness Team), both the teams land up at the world championship of dance which Sahej wants to win for his brother, but Inayat wants to win for a greater cause.

Dance ka rule No. 1 hai, never be No. 2, he says.

You dance to impress, but I dance to express, she says. At the world championship of dance, we are told repeatedly, there

no

This is the film's best part. The high-octane dance battles are stunning and they put 3D and

melodrama to great use. Though Street Dancer's story and screenplay are devoted to just two things — to impress us with the dance performances, and make us weep with melodrama the superb execution of both in the film's last 20 minutes lift it.

It invokes Ganapati Bappa moriya, and ends with Mile sur mera tumhara... And despite all its flaws, wins us over, and like the happy, teary judges of a dance reality show at the finale act. I too wanted to stand up and clap.

That's mostly because there's an honesty in its intent. Street Dancer is what it is. It doesn't pretend to be anything else.

Take the film's opening scene whose purpose is just to tease us with Varun Dhawan's 8-pack abs.

We wakes up in the morning and walks through his house in an open, long hoodie, pausing to ask his mummyji, "Bhaiyya kahan hai?

In response she says, "Hamein bhi good morning bol diya karo." I mean, hello!!

Show me one Indian mother who will, early in the morning, look at the shaved. bare chest of her jawan munda, and instead of saying, "Shirt ke butband kar,' ton

utter some

sweet inanity. As Javed Jaffrey recently said so memorably, "Arre chalo na yaar;

kisi aur ko banao". But there is a queerness to the whole bare-chested men dancing with each other, swinging their danglers. In fact, there is no rigid masculinity in the film, nor its attendant syappas, except in the drawing room of Inayat's house.

f one were to judge by the sheer quality of dance, then Varun Dhawan will come last, I mean, ekdum last, in the roll call of this film which includes many really fantastic dancers, on top of whom sits Nora Fatehi twerking. She is so sexy and amazing. My eyes kept popping out of my sockets every time she came on. Shraddha is quite good too, and Dhawan can act.

Though Prabhu Deva's name is the first to flash on the screen in opening credits, the film keeps him uselessly occupied in silly scenes for a very long time, as if it took out a restraining order on his pelvic and feet.

We wait and wait, and when he does finally come on, we see that he no longer has the agility he once did, and his small movements seem minuscule in front of many young so-and-so somersaulting, flying in the air and landing in crotch-tearing splits.

But man, he's still got the rhythm.

But, I have a big complaint. What's the deal with songs these days? Why are all Bollywood dance songs in Punjabi? Street Dancer has just one song that's Punjabi a n d doesn't

talk of a

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critically acclaimed. Disco Raja Disco Raja is another CAST: Ravi Teja, Nabha Natesh, Paayal Rajput, Bobby Simha, Vennela attempt at science fic-Kishore, Tanya Hope tion and Anand has

DIRECTOR: Vi Anand RATING: ★★

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а

Teja

work with. The film starts in a gripping manner but Anand seems to lose his way after 20 minutes and settles for an outdated formula. Ravi Teja is known as the 'Mass Maharaja', liked for his unique dialogue delivery and the punchy one-liners. But Anand completely fails to use the star's image and harks back to a boring

story The first half is interesting and the second half is a complete bore expect for the climax. The flashback tests the patience of the audi-

ence. The director appears confused as to whether he is narrating a science fiction story or a tale from the 1980s. Ravi Teja still looks young though he has

crossed 50. He plays a dual role here, but what people expect of him is missing. Bobby Simha gets a good role and is one of the high-lights of the film. The other surprise is Sunil, generally known as a comedian, who is seen in a different avatar. Vennela Kishore as the scientist provides a few laughs. Of the three actresses, none gets good mileage. Nabha Natesh is there for a song and a couple of scenes, Payal Rajput appears in the second half but gets a lengthy role. Tanya Hope is okay as the scientist.

The talking point is the cinematography by Karthik Ghattamaneni, especially the scenes set in the snow-covered mountains. Thaman's background score is good. The art director should be appreciated for designing the science lab in a realistic way. Abburi Ravi's dialogues are normal and he could not match Ravi Teja's requirements.

Disco Raja' is supposed to be a science fic-tion drama but director Vi Anand fails to continue through with it. The idea is good, but the narration is routine and outdated. Ravi Teja is out of form.





Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Sunday visited Algeria for talks on the conflict in neighbouring Libya



DECCAN CHRONICLE

#### BRIEF IN **Palestine says**

#### will quit Accords

Ramallah: Palestinian officials threatened on Sunday to withdraw from key provisions of the Oslo Accords, which define relations with Israel, if US President Donald Trump announces his Middle East peace plan next week. Chief Palestinian negotiatior Saeb Erekat told AFP that the Palestinian Liberation Organisation reserved the right "to withdraw from the interim agree-ment", the concrete part of the Oslo deal, if Trump unveils his plan. The Trump initiative will turn Israel's "temporary occupation into a permanent occupation".

#### **Record Brazil** rainstorms kill 30

Brasilia: At least 30 people have been killed in two days of intense storms in southeastern Brazil, the Minas Gerais state Civil Defense office said on Saturday. Seventeen people are also missing, seven injured, and some 3,500 have been forced out of their homes following a series of landslides and building collapses, Civil Defense officials said. Television footage showed images of overflowing rivers, flood neighborhoods and trees and utility poles knocked over by the rushing water. Several highways have also been cut by the flooding, and scores of bridges have been knocked out. Most of the victims were killed in landslides or buried in destroyed homes. At least two children were listed among the dead. The heavy rain and flooding is also hitting the nearby states. Rainfall in the region has been the heaviest since records were first kept.

#### **Jailed US-Israeli** asks for pardon

Moscow: An Israeli-US woman sentenced by a Russian court to seven-anda-half years in jail for drug trafficking has asked President Vladimir Putin for a pardon, her lawyers were quoted as saying on Sunday. Naama Issachar "decided to ask the Russian president for a pardon and a written request has been filed," the lawyers said in a statement quoted by Russian press agencies, Issachar, 26, was arrested at Moscow's airport in April. Russian authorities said they found nine grammes of cannabis in her luggage.

# **US to lift its citizens out of Wuhan**

Japan will also evacuate all its nationals from Wuhan, the epicentre of a deadly type of coronavirus

Wuhan/Tokyo, Jan. 26: The United States is arranging a flight to evacuate personnel and American citizens trapped at the epicentre of a deadly virus in central China, the US State Department said on Sunday. The flight will leave on

Tuesday from the city of Wuhan and take people to San Francisco, the department said in an email to Americans in China, warning that there would be limited space for private citizens.

capacity "This extremely limited and if there is insufficient ability to transport everyone who expresses interest, priority will be given to individuals at greater risk from coronavirus," the department said.

On the other hand, Japan will evacuate all its nationals from China's quarantined city of Wuhan, the epicentre of a deadly virus, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said Sunday. "We have decided to send

back all (Japanese citizens in Wuhan) to Japan if they wish so, by every means including a chartered flight," Abe told reporters. "We are coordinating with the Chinese govern-

ment at various levels, and we will accelerate the process to realise a swift implementation" of the evacuation from Wuhan, the capital of Hubei province in central China, Abe said.

Earlier, a foreign min-istry official told AFP that 430 Japanese were in Hubei province.

The outbreak, which has killed 56 people and infected nearly 2,000 across China, is believed to have originated in a live animal market in Wuhan.

China is one of Tokyo's biggest trading partners and around 160 Japanlinked companies have offices in the region's central city of Wuhan.

Japan's health authorities confirmed the country's third case on Saturday — all in patients that had visited Wuhan France plans to evacuate

its citizens stuck in Hubei by bus. The city of 11 million ed capacity to transport



Residents set up barricades near the vacant Fai Ming Estate to protest against plans for the estate to be used as a quarantine camp for patients and frontline medical staff of a coronavirus outbreak which began in Wuhan.

A flight will leave on Tuesday from the city of Wuhan and take people to San Francisco, the department said in an email to Americans in China, warning that there would be limited space.

people has been placed under effective quarantine for days, with a car traffic ban going into effect on Sunday.

Wuhan is the capital of Hubei province. Transport restrictions have been expanded across the province, corralling some 56 million people in total. The U.S. Consulate in the epidemic-stricken Chinese city of Wuhan will evacuate its personnel and some private citizens aboard a charter flight on Tuesday. A notice on Sunday from the embassy in Beijing said there would be limit-

U.S. citizens on the flight that will proceed directly

to San Francisco. It said that in the event there are not enough seats, priority will be given to to individuals "at greater risk from coronavirus. A patient in California's Orange County was on Saturday confirmed as the third person on US soil infected with the new deadly virus that originated in China, health officials said.

The infected person was a traveler from Wuhan, the Orange County Health Care Agency said.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) confirmed the patient had tested positive for the Novel Coronavirus, it said.

The individual was in isolation in a local hospital and was in good condition. "There is no evidence that person-to-person transmission has occurred in Orange County," the agency said. — Agencies agency said.

# Coronavirus death toll in China climbs up to 56

Beijing, Jan, 26: A new viral illness being watched with a wary eye around the globe accelerated its spread in China on Sunday with 56 deaths so

far, while the U.S. Consulate in the city at the epicenter announced it will evacuate its personnel and some private citizens aboard a charter flight. China's health minister

said the country was entering a "crucial stage" as "it seems like the ability of the virus to spread is getting stronger."

Ma Xiaowei declined to estimate how long it would take to bring the situation under control, but said travel restrictions and other strict measures should bring results "at

the lowest cost and fastest the country or head abroad for the Lunar New

President Xi Jinping on Saturday called the outbreak a grave situation and said the government was stepping up efforts to restrict travel and public gatherings while rushing medical staff and supplies to the city at the center of the crisis, Wuhan, which remains on lockdown with no flights, trains or buses in or out.

epidemic The has revived memories of the SARS outbreak that origi-Singapore, nated in China and killed Nepal, Austrália. nearly 800 as it spread around the world in 2002 and 2003. Its spread has cases in Washington state. come amid China's busiest Chicago, and most recently Southern California. travel period of the year, when millions crisscross

#### **VIRUS' ABILITY TO SPREAD GETTING STRONGER: CHINA**

Beijing, Jan. 26: The coronavirus transmission ability is getting stronger and infections could continue to rise, China's National Health Commission said Sunday, with more than 2,000 people globally infected and 56 in China killed by the disease.

National Health Commission Minister Ma Xiaowei, speaking at a press briefing, said authorities' knowledge of the new virus was limited and they are unclear on the risks posed by mutations of the virus.

Ma said the incubation period for the coronavirus can range from one to 14 days, and that the virus is infectious during incubation, which was not the case with Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), a coronavirus that originated in China and killed nearly 800 people globally in 2002 and 2003. Containment efforts, which have thus far included transportation

and travel curbs and the cancellation of big events, will be intensified, Ma told a crowded news briefing on the second day of the Lunar New Year holiday.

The virus, believed to have originated late last vear in a seafood market in the central Chinese city of Wuhan that was illegally selling wildlife, has spread to Chinese cities including Beijing and Shanghai, as well as the United States, Thailand, South Korea, Japan, Australia, France and Canada.

The government also reported five cases in Hong Kong, two in Macao Sunday, China On and three in Taiwan. announced a nationwide Small numbers of cases ban on the sale of wildlife have been found in Thailand, Japan, South Korea, the U.S., Vietnam, in markets, restaurants. and e-commerce platforms. - Reuters Malaysia

The incubation period for the virus can range from one to 14 days, and it is infectious during incubation

ANXIOUS

AP

#### **PHILIPPINES** LOWERS **VOLCANO ALERT**

Manila, Jan. 26: An explosive eruption of the Philippines' restive Taal volcano no longer appears imminent, authorities said on Sunday as they lifted most of a mass evacuation order but warned residents to remain ready to flee. Warning signs like earth-

quakes have been steadily waning since Taal burst to life two weeks ago with plumes of ash and lava, forcing over 1,35,000 people into shelters over fears a massive blast was coming.

The nation's seismological agency said steadily shrinking ash and gas emissions were signs of "decreased tendency towards hazardous explosive eruption", leading them to drop the alert by a notch.

The immediate impact of the reduced warning was the lifting of the evacuation order for nearly all the towns that ring the volcano, a tourist attraction that sits in the middle of a lake

"Residents of all towns under lockdown except Agoncillo and Laurel now have the option to return,' local governor Hermilando Mandanas told a press confer-

'There's a possibility that the volcano may still erupt and we should still be ready to evacuate in one hour.'

No one is known to have died in the eruption, but the ash it unleashed forced the brief closure of the capital's main international airport, stranding tens of thousands of travellers. The volcano shot ash 15 kilometres high and spewed lava in the January 12 eruption, which crushed scores of homes and killed livestock as well as crops. Taal is one of the most active volcanoes in the country.

#### LASSA FEVER **KILLS 29 IN NIGERIA**

Lagos, Jan. 26: Nigerian health authorities have announced stepped-up emergency measures to tackle a rise in Lassa fever cases after 29 people died this month.

"As at 24th of January 2020, 195 confirmed cases and 29 deaths had been reported in 11 the Nigeria states, Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) said in a statement Saturday.A national emergency operations centre had been activated to coordinate the response "to the increasing number of Lassa fever cases' across the country.

Endemic to Nigeria, Lassa fever belongs to the same family as the Ebola and Marburg viruses, but is much less deadly. The virus is spread by contact with rat faeces or urine. It starts with fever and can, in worst case scenarios. lead to severe bleeding and organ failure.

a year ago and around 170 people died from the virus in 2019.

The number of cases usually climbs in January due to weather conditions during the dry season.Almost 90 percent of the recent confirmed cases have been in Edo, Ondo and Ebonyi states in southern Nigeria, but their have also been deaths in the north. The NCDC said that compared to the same period last year the fatality rate had dropped from 23.4 percent to 14.8 percent. encouraged It

Nigerians to "practise good hygiene and take measures to protect themselves". -AFP

# Fearless motorists help neighbours in Wuhan

Wuhan, Jan. 26: Citizens of China's virus-stricken

city of Wuhan have been told to stay indoors, avoid strangers and keep their cars off the road, but locals like Zhang Lin are refusing to sit by and watch their hometown

suffer. Defying the threat from a contagious respiratory illness that broke out in the city and has killed dozens of people, Zhang and other Wuhan residents are pitching in by driving sick fellow citizens to hospital. "We're from Wuhan, and

even though you guys are here to help us, our own citizens should also come out to (help)," Zhang Lin told AFP journalists as he waited for a patient to emerge from a clinic for

the drive back home. "There has to be some-one who does this."The 48year-old Zhang and others have been enlisted by the government to provide the

Nigeria declared an outbreak of Lassa fever

Washington, Jan. 26: Researchers have found a novel compound that can trigger latent HIV residing in mice to come out of hiding, a major breakthrough in treating the infection since current drug treatment fails to completely cure the disease when some of the viruses become dormant.

To combat HIV, which has infected nearly 38 million people around the world,



tem.

free service, and it is sorelv needed.

Wuhan has for days been the nucleus of a transport lockdown that began in the city of 11 million and has since been expanded to much of the rest of Hubei province, in an attempt to cut off transmission routes for the virus.

Wuhan's public trans-port system has been halted, taxi services curtailed ness and, on Sunday, new restrictions were introduced banning most cars from the streets.

Difficulty getting around adds another challenge for sick people who, even after they reach overwhelmed hospitals, may need to wait hours to see

hard-pressed doctors. But drivers like Yin Yu have obtained special dis-pensation to drive for ĥumanitarian reasons. "There are no cars, so we are responsible for send-

patients currently

take antiretroviral

tectable levels in

blood, the study, pub-

lished in the journal

However, it added that the virus still

persists throughout

the body in these patients in latently infected CD4+ T cells

of the immune sys-

researchers, includ-

According to the

therapy (ART) drugs that suppress the virus to unde-

Nature. said.

ing them there ... and tak-

ing them back. This is all for free," said Yin, 40. To many Chinese, such

can-do attitudes are hardly surprising for Wuhan. The city, located in the centre of the country on the Yangtze River, was the starting point for an armed rebellion against the Qing dynasty in 1911 that ended imperial rule -and gave the city's people a reputation for tough-

That toughness was ref-erenced in a public announcement blaring from a loudspeaker in the city on Sunday, which offered tips on hygiene and seeking medical care. but also a dose of civic pride. "Wuhan is a city that

dares to face difficulties and keeps overcoming them," said a female voice. 'This is not the first

time we have faced a similar situation." -AFP

## China virus not as powerful as SARS

Year holiday. The latest figures report-

ed Sunday morning cover

the previous 24 hours and

mark an increase of 15

deaths and 688 cases for a

France

The U.S. has confirmed

for Disease Control and

Prevention, at a press briefing in Beijing.

However, it also appears

that the "spreading abili-

ty of the virus is getting stronger," added Ma

Xiaowei, head of China's

Health

AFP

National

total of 1,975 infections.

Beijing, Jan. 26: A top Chinese health official new disease was less pow-erful than SARS -- though said Sunday that a new deadly virus that has infected nearly 2,000 peoit was becoming more contagious. "From what we see now, this disease is ple and killed dozens in indeed...not as powerful China is "not as powerful as SARS," said Gao Fu, as SARS". head of China's Centre

The new virus has sparked alarm amid a rising death toll and the discovery that it comes from the same family of coronaviruses as SARS, which killed nearly 650 people across mainland China and Hong Kong. But Chinese officials

Commission (NHC). told reporters that the



A man and his son wearing facemasks as a precaution as they visit a Chinese temple in Yangon. — AFP

the body.

genetic

brain.

They documented

material

increases in viral

expressed in the

mice blood and near-

ly all tissues, including lymph nodes, thymus, bone mar-

row, liver, lung, and

According to the

study, the viral genet-

ic material, ribonu-cleic acid, increased

by more than 20 fold

after treating with

the compound.

**FOREIGNERS AWAIT RESCUE** Wuhan, Jan. 26: Anxious foreigners in

the locked-down city that spawned China's deadly viral epidemic say they are stranded at home, running out of food and desperate to leave, as governments scrambled to draw up evacuation plans.

Authorities have barred travel to and from Hubei province and its capital Wuhan, where the coronavirus was first detected before it spread across China and to a dozen other countries — including the United States, France and Australia.

Several other large cities in China have introduced their own travel restrictions in a bid to contain the dis-ease, which has killed 56 people and infected nearly 2,000 others.

"In the past week we've not been able to go out and buy anything to eat," said Mashal eat," said Mashal Jamalzai, a political science student from Afghanistan at Central Normal China

University. He told AFP that he and his classmates had been living on biscuits, and his embassy had not responded to requests for help. "We want to be evacuated as soon as possible, because either the virus, the hunger or the fear will kill us," Jamalzai said.

Thousands of foreign students and other inter-national residents live in Wuhan, a normally bustling transport hub in central China home to a huge steel and auto

industry. With schools shut and no transport to and from the city, students say Wuhan looks like a ghost town. — Agencies

US, the immune system cannot recognise these dormant cells, and no current therapies can eliminate them. ART is When stopped, they said, the virus levels spike in the blood. Hence, the scientists explained that

ing those from the University of North Carolina (UNC) in the

people with HIV must take ART continuously, and the latent reservoir of the virus cells, demonstrating

systemic HIV induc-tion in peripheral is the greatest obsta-cle to a cure against the deadly disease.

the researchers used a compound called AZD5582 to activate latently infected CD4+ T cells in blood and many different tissues with no, or

very little toxicity. "Previously, no one had successfully tested a latency reversal molecule in humans, or in an animal model with human



The scientists tested AZD5582 on ARTsuppressed mouse models which were genetically neered to produce human CD4+ T cells in tissues throughout



-----

engi-



-PTI

New compound activates hiding HIV

NOVEL | WAYS Breakthrough in treating the infection that has infected 38m

# Chronicle

#### **Buffer stocks** of Wheat 32.80 35.18 Nov Oct 39.32 Aug 41.49 Jul 43.59 Jun 45.83 46.56 May Apr 33.16 Mar 17.00 Feb 20.10 Jan 23.90 Dec 27.10 2018 Source: FCI PTT GRAPHICS

#### Tata Motors aims for top dog status in EVs

Tata Motors aims to establish itself as the leader in the electric vehicle (EV) market in the country as it looks to roll out new products for both pri-

vate and fleet segments, a senior company official said. The company, which sells its Tigor EV primarily to fleet customers, is now gearing up to cater to the personal segment with the introduction of the electric version of compact SUV Nexon which comes with a range of over 300 kms.

#### MONDAY | 27 JANUARY 2020 | HYDERABAD

# quick

<b>INDICATORS</b>		%
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 <b>▼</b> 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 Friday		

#### Indian cos may soon be able to list overseas

The government is likely to soon decide on permitting Indian companies to list their equity shares overseas, according to an official. Apart from providing an additional fund raising avenue for the corporates looking to expand and boost their business activities. overseas listing of shares would also help in bringing more capital into the country.

#### Gold imports dip 6.77% in first half of FY19-20



Gold imports, which have a bearing on the current account deficit, fell 6.77 per cent to \$23 billion during the April-

# ■ Foreign investors are getting nervous due to lack of trust in government data Govt in no position to bail out banks

Jaipur, Jan. 26: Nobel laureate and economist Abhijit Banerjee here on Sunday said the banking sector in the country is "stressed" and the government is in no position to bail it out.

economy.

costly.

"We also know that due

to a demand deficit in the

economy, cars and two-

wheelers are not selling, and those things are signs

of a general fact that peo-

ple lack confidence that

the economy is going to

grow fast so they are hold-

ing back, they are not spending," he said.

Speaking to the media on the sidelines of the 13th Jaipur Literature Festival, Banerjee said the demand slowdown in the automobile sector also shows that people are lacking confidence in the

The author of Good "Financial sector is the Economics for Hard biggest stress point cur-Times added that the slowdown in the economy will rently. There is no question that the finance sec-tor is something we should worry about, the also adversely impact poverty alleviation in the country as urban and banking sector is stressed. rural sectors are interdependent. The government really is not in a position to bail it

"Poverty alleviation has been happening mostly on the strength of the fact out, so we are talking about a long process of attrition, that's going to be that urban sector creates low skill jobs, and a lot of rural sector works in the urban sector and sends monev back.

That's the peak source of transmission of growth from urban sector to rural sector. And as soon as the urban sector slows down the rural sector, the people in construction work don't have as many jobs. All of

Buyers need to be wary



that will feed back on the rural sector, the 58-year-Indian-American old economist said.

Answering to a question — how will economic poli-cies work if people have a lack of trust in the data, he said the government should worry about this issue as foreign investors are getting nervous.

They don't know where they are going, what they are getting into, I mean those are real issues the government should look into. If it wants to have more investment and more involvement in the global economy, then I think it needs to provide the true data to people, he said.

-PTI

# White goods cos seek tax relief

New Delhi, Jan. 26: Manufacturers of appliances and consumer electronics are seeking lower taxes on eco-friendly and energy-efficient products, incentives for more domestic manufacturing and waiving of customs duty on inputs imported to make the components in the upcoming Union

Budget. The Consumer Electronics and Appliances Manu-Association facturers (CEAMA) has urged the government to offer incentives for manufacturers to produce energy-efficient products which will be in line with the government's focus on sustainability in a pre-budget memorandum. "Lowering the GST tax

slabs for eco-friendly and energy-efficient products like air conditioners (4 star, 5 star models) and refrigerators (direct cool and frost-free) to 12 per cent will drive demand and increase the adoption of sustainable appliances by Indian consumers," said CEAMA President

"The upcoming budget should additionally offer incentives for manufac-

Kamal Nandi.

Centuary Mattress bets on **NE** states

#### DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JAN. 26

After capturing decent market share in the organised mattress industry in South India, city-based Centuary Mattress is now aiming to repeat its strategy for the Northeastern states over the next two to three years.

Speaking to *Deccan Chronicle*, Centuary Fibre Plates Executive

turers to produce these energy-efficient products which will be in line with the governments focus on sustainability," he said.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is scheduled to present the Budget for financial year 2020-21 on February 1.

According to CEAMA, the industry has largely been stagnant this year and with increased customs duties, global economic changes and fluctuations in currency and commodity, the demand levels for next year are difficult to predict.

Indian component sup-pliers are facing difficulty in competing with cheap Chinese imports, it said.

"The government should consider initiating some measures to reduce the input cost to make these components by waiving duty on the inputs imported to make the components," said Nandi, who is also Godrej Appliances Business Head & Executive vice president. "Besides this, the gov-

ernment should also focus on the promotion of R&D and incentivisation of local manufacturing. The

government should reinstate the reimbursement of R&D expenses to 200 per cent," he said adding that "additionally, any expenditure incurred for taking professional help in aesthetic designing, prototyping, electronic controls designing etc should also be allowed as R&D expenditures.'

Panasonic India and South Asia President and CEO Manish Sharma expects reforms in the union budget, saying that would drive consumption and improve the consumer demand.

that "the government should also consider reduction in GST rates for "In order to realise the products like refrigera-Make in India' vision, it is essential for the government to reduce basic customs duty on parts used in manufacturing of key components such as Motors and PCB which currently ranges from 7.5 -10 per cent. To give a perspective, reduction in custom duty on these parts, used in manufacture of PCB and motors which are further used for manufacturing Washing Machine, Refrigerator and AC will reduce input cost, allowing Indian manufacturers to be far more competiproduction."

which are now evolving from being luxuries to necessities for our consumers" Usha International CEO Dinesh Chhabra: "One of the key measures in the sector could be reduction of GST rates on electronic components and rationalization of the slabs for various categories of products. GST rate cuts on components would provide manufacturers with an incentive to expand production." — *PTI* 

tive," he said. BSH Home Appliances

India Managing Director and CEO Neeraj Bahl said

Union Budget 2020 will

focus of regaining con-

sumer confidence, by

reduction of personal tax,

which in turn will help boost consumer demand

and help the industry, which had witnessed a flat

"We urge the govern-

ment to bring in construc-

tive policies to lend sup-

port and drive growth in

the sector," he said adding

tors and air conditioners,

growth last year.

Market participants seek lower STT, CTT

#### **RAVI RANJAN PRASAD** MUMBAI, JAN. 26

Market participants want the finance minister to remove or cut down rates of securities transaction tax (STT) and commodities transaction tax (CTT) to boost falling trading volumes. Owing to STT and CTT, the market depth in India is the lowest amongst global peers and is a deterrent to price discovery, said a presentation sent by the Assocaiton of National Exchanges Members of India (ANMI)

• Owing to STT and CTT, the market depth in India is the lowest amongst global peers and is a deterrent to price discovery, said a presentation sent by the ANMI and the CPAI to the finance ministry.

stamp duty; or if you have

them, reduce them sizably

"Modvatable" with direct

Income Tax (i.e. Sec 88 E,

treat as tax not expense),'

Mutual Funds in India

(Amfi) has proposed a 17-

The wish list included-

mutual funds be allowed to

introduce low-cost. lower-

risk tax exemption-linked

Schemes (DLSS), Ulips and

equity MFs be brought on

par on tax treatment by

Linked

Association

Anmi and CPAI said.

point budget wish list.

make

report.

and

The

Debt

IRRENT.

ratio, the presentation removing LTCG tax, abolisaid, citing a World Bank tion of STT on equity funds at redemption, aboli-The trading volumes of tion of DDT on dividends copper, the flagship induspaid by equity-oriented



value

that

the value-conscious jewellery lovers. De Beers too has come up with a brand for lab-grown diamonds. However, despite the

polished dia-

# of lab-grown diamonds them find a market among

December period of the current fiscal, according to commerce ministry data. Imports stood at \$24.73 billion in the corresponding period of FY19. The decline has helped in narrowing the country's trade deficit to \$118 billion during the period

#### **UKIBC:** India should welcome investments

The Indian government is responsive to concerns expressed by businesses but needs to do more to attract investments into sectors such as e-commerce, the UK India Business Council (UKIBC) has said. The comments from the lobby grouping come after there was a sharp criticism of Goyal for saying Amazon was not doing India a favour by the investment announcement.

have more than doubled April. However, since higher imports compared to exports indicate labgrown diamonds being sneaked into the domestic market in the guise of real diamonds.

Import of rough lab-

grown diamonds and export of polished ones

SANGEETHA G

CHENNAI, JAN. 26

December 2019, ₹1768 crore worth rough labgrown diamonds were imported against ₹696 crore in the same period in the year ago period -an increase of 153 per cent. In addition, polished lab-grown diamonds valued ₹523 crore were also imported during the period and this saw a growth of 42 per cent. In the month of December itself,

per cent. As far as exports of polished lab-grown diamonds are concerned, a growth monds and this has helped

imports of lab-grown dia-

monds had gone up by 211



of 109 per cent was recorded in the month of December. Exports went up to ₹256 crore against ₹122 crore in the year-ago month. During April-December period, exports went up to ₹2,200 crore from ₹1,058 crore in the same period last year.

The import and export of lab-grown diamonds started sharply rising in FY19. It further shot up in FY20 as their demand has risen in recent times. Lab-grown diamonds are 40 to 50 per cent cheaper than real dia-

monds being higher than the rough ones, the export value during April-December period is a tad lower than the import value, which indicates increasingly labgrown diamonds are being sneaked into the domestic market as real diamonds. Currently, no jeweller in sisters. India officially sells synthetic jewellery.

"Synthetic diamonds are often detected among real diamond parcels sent by jewellers. Mixing of syn-thetics with real loose diamonds is happening," said Tehmasp Printer, managing director of IGI India Mostly the mixing is done by suppliers of loose diamonds or manufacturers of jewellery. Some jewelers knowingly allow the synthetics to pass off as real.

Director, Uttam Malani said, "Currently, about three per cent of our business comes from the Northeastern states. We expect it to reach to as higĥ as 10 per cent in three years time as we expand our distribution network in the seven He added, "Most firms tend to ignore the

region citing logistics woes. However, thanks to our local partners that hasn't been much of a trouble for us Moreover, the recent expansion of our plant in Odisha will help cater to the additional demand from the region.

He, however, said that the growth will look huge as the base is low.

the Commodity Participants Association India (CPAI) to the finance ministry.

'Trading cost in India is significantly higher than trading similar instruments globally, leading to poor volumes, low liquidity and high impact cost in India," they said.

The government collected ₹11,000 crore from STT levied of transactions in securities band ₹667 crore from CTT levied on transactions in commodities. but this came at the cost of lower trading volumes in the markets.

Since 2007-08 when STT rebate under section 88 E was removed, the market capitalisation rose 194 per cent at 10 per cent CAGR while turnover rose 4.99 per cent, leading to a 43 per cent fall in the turnover-to-market cap

trial metal, in China is 32 funds, and exemption to times India's and in switches London, 63 times India's, schemes from capital gains the CPAI said. tax. The Amfi also wants After CTT introduction.

them

of

Savings

MFs to be recognised as 'Specified Long Term Assets', and be exempt volumes fell by 60 per cent from ₹70,000 crore in FY12-13 to ₹28,500 crore in from LTCG under section FY18-19. Remove tax on 54 EC of IT Act 1961. turnover i.e. STT, CTT,

It also wants to lower the holding period in gold and commodity ETFs for LTCG purposes to one year, from three years.

within

Japanese Brokerage house Nomura said, " We expect the budget to prioritise investment over short-term consumption demand, announce measures for boosting housing demand and attract more long-term risk capital.

"For capital markets the government may choose to ease the Long Term Capital Gains tax of 10 per cent and DDT for corporates," Nomura said.

#### **Relief for Raheja Developers** in insolvency case

Providing a major relief to Raheja Developers, the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal has set aside the insolvency proceedings against the real estate firm and handed over the management of the company back to its board of directors. Earlier, on August 20 last year, the Delhi-based principal bench of the NCLT had directed to initiate insolvency proceedings against the firm.

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## Boeing 777X takes first flight into troubled skies for jumbos JULIE JOHNSSON

Boeing Co.'s newest plane, so big that its wings are hinged, finally rumbled into the skies over the Washington factory complex constructed a half century ago for the original jumbo jet.

After a delay Friday because of high winds, the jet took off from Boeing Field at 10:09 a.m. PST Saturday and landed successfully almost four hours later. It's set to fly again on Tuesday and undergo tests for as long as 10 months.

First flights typically

mark a crowning techno-logical achievement for

planemakers, capping years of invention and

for Boeing.

to the global grounding of its 737 Max. As the company works to restore its reputation for safety and

technical prowess, the new aircraft will face heightened scrutiny from regulators, airlines and investors.

Safety aside, there's con-cern that the jetliner is simply too big for today's airlines. The -9 is longer Boeing's iconic than humpbacked 747 and is the first twin-engine jet built to haul a similar load of travelers—426 people in a typical two-cabin layout. It's also the company's priciest airplane, avail-able for a cool \$442.2 million before customary dis-

counts. But sales have stalled since an initial order flurry when the 777X was unveiled at the Dubai Airshow in 2013, and longexpected orders from China haven't materialized amid trade tensions.

problem-solving. This flight, however, will be clouded with uncertainty The 777-9 is the planemaker's first new model since two fatal crashes led



"It is feeling like the plane is too big for most markets, for most airlines," said George Ferguson, an aviation analyst with Bloomberg Intelligence. The 777-9—the first model of the 777X fami-ly—is taking off into a turbulent market for aviation's behemoths as the

four-engine jets it was designed to replace fade into the sunset. Airbus SE is building the last of its A380 double-decker jets, while the future of Boeing's 747 is very much in question with just 17 orders unfilled and a critical supplier shutting down production.

With 115 of the 777X still order. Emirates on accounts for more than half of Boeing's total backlog. The long-haul carrier is also the largest customer for Airbus's superjumbo. But as the A380 fades out of the global fleet over the next decade or so, it's not a

-----

given that its operators will adopt the 777X to overcome congested hubs. For now, the trend is to bypass the industry's biggest airports with smaller long-range jets. "Most airlines that we're

dealing with are not inter-

ested in replacing [four-engine jets] with the

largest twin-engine wide-

Hazy, chairman and founder of Air Lease Corp., said during a

November earnings call. "Actually the trend is the

other way," he added, not-

ing interest in smaller

planes like Boeing's 787

flight and demonstrates

its capability, however. It

is an expensive airplane,

Udvar-Hazy said, so air-

lines will likely wait and

see how it performs before

The plane features stun-

deciding on orders

and Airbus's A350. The market may come around as the 777X takes

bodies,"

Steven Udvar-

ning composite wings, the longest Boeing has ever built, with a span of 235 feet 5 inches (71.75 meters) when fully extended. The 777X will be instantly identifiable by its most distinctive feature: Hinges that flip the sculpted wingtips skyward for easier maneuvering around crowded taxiways.

While that design is a first for a commercial jetliner, it leans on concepts that have been around for about a century for military aircraft, said Mike Lombardi, Boeing's corpohistorian and rate archivist. The company's F/A-18 Hornet, for instance, folds its wings to save space on carrier decks.

"It's a very tried and true technology," Lombardi said. "But I don't think we're going to be landing a 777X on a carrier deck any time soon.'

-Bloomberg

















South African bowler Vernon Philander, who is playing in his final Test, has been fined 15 per cent of his match fee after a send-off of England batsman Jos Buttler during the fourth Test





Vasant Raiji **Oldest living player** Raiji turns 100

Mumbai: It was a century in real life for Vasant Raiji, India's oldest living first-class cricketer, who turned 100-years-old on Sunday. Raiji, a right-handed batsman, played nine first-class matches in the 1940s, scoring 277 runs with 68 being his highest score. Raiji, also a historian, was 13 when India played his first Test at the Bombay Gymkhana in South Mumbai and has seen the entire journey of Indian Cricket, till date. He played for Bombay (now Mumbai) and Baroda. Cricket icon Sachin Tendulkar, who recently paid a courtesy visit to Raiji, along with former Australian captain Steve Waugh took to Twitter to wish Raiji. "Wishing you a very special 100th birthday, Shri Vasant Raiji. Steve & I had a wonderful time listening to some amazing cricket stories about the past. Thank you for passing on a treasure trove of memories about our beloved sport," tweeted Tendulkar, who has several records to his name. Raiji has shared the dressing room with the likes of Lala Amarnath, Vijay Merchant, CK Nayadu and Vijay Hazare. Raiji, who has also penned several books, resides in posh Walkeshwar area in South Mumbai. — PTI

#### **England march**

on vs Proteas

Johannesburg: Beuran Hendricks claimed a maiden five-wicket haul on debut and Quinton de Kock claimed a world record for the quickest wicketkeeper to 200 dismissals as the Proteas regained their fighting spirit and pride on the third day of the final Test match against England at the Wanderers Stadium on Sunday. England nevertheless continue to hold the trump cards as they have set the Proteas to make 466 for victory in the remaining two days.

It was a heroic performance by the Proteas seamers who were deprived of the services of Vernon Philander's final Test match bowling effort as he was ruled out by a hamstring strain after sending down only 9 deliveries. Admittedly, some of the England batsmen gave their wickets away in the chase for quick runs but it was still a notable effort to bowl them out in little more than 60 overs. Hendricks took 5/64 in an effort from which he will have learned a great deal. Agencies Brief scores: England 400 & 248 in 61.3 overs (D. Sibley 44, J. Root 58; B. Hendricks 5/64) vs South Africa 183 (Q. de Kock 76; Wood 5/46).





CARD

Mitchell Santner (not out)

O. Extras (lb 1, w 4) 5. Total

(for five wickets in 20 overs) 132. FoW: 1-48, 2-68, 3-74, 4-81,

Bowling: Thakur 2-0-21-1,

Shami 4-0-22-0, Bumrah 4-0-21-1, Chahal 4-0-33-0,

as

Dube 2-0-16-1,

play. The tactic

Thakur got rid

of Guptill at end

of six overs. India

then used the

slow nature of

the used-wicket

to put brakes on

the New Zealand

Wickets came at

a regular interval

as the Black Caps

struggled to get the

big shots out. Yuzvendra Chahal (0-33) and Shivam Dube

(1-16) combined well

after the powerplay,

while Ravindra Jadeja

was the stand out bowler

with figures of 2-18 from

also raised their field-

ing effort barring a

bizarre drop from

four overs. Overall, India

middle order.

New

5-125.

worked

Auckland, Jan. 26: India Friday. tightened their grip on the T20I series with a seven-wicket drubbing of New Zealand in the second match after their bowlers stifled the hosts on a pocket-sized Eden Park here on Sunday. Boasting a formidable batting line-up, chasing 133 proved to be a cakewalk for the visitors on a pitch that was slightly on the slower side. The very short bound-ary ensured the match ended with as many as 15

balls to spare. The trio of Ravindra Jadeja, Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Shami allowed no respite to Kane Williamson's team after New Zealand surprisingly chose to bat, restricting them to 132 for five. K L Rahul then scored 57 not out off 50 balls while Shreyas Iyer scored 44 off 33 balls, the duo adding 86 runs for the third wicket and after Rohit Sharma's twin failure. Tim Southee took 2-20 as India had to do without major contributions from both Sharma and skipper Virat Kohli. Sharma (8) was out caught at slip in the first over off

Southee. New Zealand's new ball bowlers were compact and didn't let the

Indian top order get a w unlike first T20I

Even so, Rahul and Kohli added 31 runs for the second wicket. The latter then was caught behind off Southee in the sixth over with Tim Seifert taking a brilliant diving catch. Kohli scored 11 off 12 balls and the wicket's slow nature was starting to impact proceedings. New Zealand held back

DECCAN CHRONICLE

their spinners too, but Rahul-Iyer settled down in this passage of play. They rotated strike well and added 50 in 55 balls by min-imising risks. Rahul brought up his 11th T20I

half-century off 43 balls. Overall, Rahul hit three fours and two sixes, while Iver hit one four and three sixes. India crossed 100 in the 15th over after which Iyer cut loose to approach the finish line. He fell just prior, holing out off Ish Sodhi (1-33). But Rahul stuck around while Shivam Dube finished the job with a six over midwicket. This was after Indian bowlers made opting to bat, the Black Caps couldn't generate enough momentum in the middle overs and finished with a sub-par total. Martin Guptill top-scored with 33 off 20 balls, while Tim Seifert was unbeaten on 33 not out off 26 balls.

Guptill and Colin Munro (26) provided a measured start to New Zealand putting on 48 runs for the first wicket. Surprisingly, India held back Jasprit Bumrah (1-21) as Shardul Thakur (1-21) and Mohammed Shami (0-

ENT KEN

KEN

Virat Kohli late in the 22) bowled innings. Dube got rid of Munro in the ninth four overs the power over while Colin de

> Our bowlers stood up and took control: Virat

> Auckland, Jan. 26: India cap-New Zealand team to 132 which I tain Virat Kohli lauded his bowlthink was below par," Kohli said. ing unit for taking control of the The low target led to India chasproceedings from the onset after ing down the total with 15 balls to an emphatic seven-wicket victospare. "The low total led us to bat ry against New Zealand in the ۲ second T20 on Sunday. Ravindra Jadeja (2/18 in 4

overs) and Jasprit Bumrah

(1/21 in 4 overs) were primarily

New Zealand to 132 with the help of a steady Mohammed Shami

"I think we had anoth-

er good performance today, especially with the ball. The bowlers

stood up and took con-

trol of what we wanted

Sticking to one side of

the wicket was a very

good feature for us as a

team to restrict a good

do out there.

(0/22 in 4 overs).

Jadeja 4-0-18-2.

Zealand: Martin Guptill c Kohli b Shardul India: Rohit Sharma c Ross Taylor b Southee 8, Lokesh Rahul (not out) 57, Virat Kohli c Seifert b Southee Thakur 33, Colin Munro c Kohli b Shivam Dube 26, Kane Williamson c Chahal b Ravindra Jadeja 14, Colin 11, Shreyas Iyer c Southee b de Grandhomme c & b Ish Sodhi 44, Shivam Dube Ravindra Jadeja 3, Ross (not out) 8. Extras (w 7) 7. Taylor c Rohit b Bumrah 18, Tim Seifert (not out) 33,

Games

MONDAY | 27 JANUARY 2020 | HYDERABAD

Total (for three wickets in 17.3 overs) 135. FoW: 1-8, 2-39, 3-125.

Bowling: Southee 3.3-0-20-2, Bennett 3-0-29-0, Tickner 3-0-34-0, Santner 4-0-19-0, Sodhi 4-0-

Grandhomme (3) failed to get going once again. Jadeja gleefully accepted his return catch. The hosts were reduced to 81 for four in the 13th over when skipper Kane Williamson (14) became Jadeja's victim, caught in the deep by Chahal. The wheels had truly come off the

Zealand New innings as they were struggling to get the big shots away. Ross Taylor struggling for tim-ing throughout his 24-ball stay was a prime Without example. Seifert's effort, including a four and two sixes, the score wouldn't have achieved any respectability. — PTI

Ravindra Jadeja bowled a good spell to restrict Kiwis. – AP

### KL had to change batting approach on slow surface

PAGE

Auckland, Jan. 26: Indian batsman KL Rahul on Sunday said he had to change his approach in the second T20 International due to the slightly slow nature of the pitch at Eden Park here. The 27-year-old said he had

to make some changes to his game as the pitch was different than the one India played during the opening match. "Obviously different circumstances, the target was different, the pitch was a little different from what we played on a couple of days ago. So I knew I couldn't play the same way I played a couple days ago," said Rahul, who was adjudged the Man of the

Match. "I had a different responsi-bility today. We lost our sen-ior players Rohit and Virat early so I had to stay in there and make sure I finish the game

Rahul, who has been in sizzling form in white ball for-mat, said he has improved in his shot selection and reading of the game.

#### Shreyas learnt art of chasing by watching Kohli

Auckland, Jan. 26: There is no one better than Virat Kohli when it comes to chasing down totals in white-ball India's newest No. 4 Shreyas Iyer wants to emulate on a consistent basis in coming days. With a half-century and 44 off 33 balls in the successful chases in the first two T20 Internationals, Iyer is fast becoming another viable option for the Indian team apart from its talismanic skipper when it comes to tricky run-chases. "I personally feel that you

have a fair idea how many runs you are going to chase and at what run-rate you





Turkey Consul General Adnan Altay Altinors gives away the trophy at the International Arena Polo Cup at the Hyderabad Polo and Riding Club.

# US women claim Polo Cup

the

In

#### DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JAN. 26

The American team led by Carolyn Stimmel beat India claim the International Arena Polo Cup held at the Hyderabad Polo and Riding Club in Hyderabad.

HPRC chukkers was played at a International Battle of The fast pace and was a treat to Sexes Arena Polo Cup, watch. The Battle of The Sexes saw Chaitania Kumar, President of HPRC Mercedes Pink edged past Truejet Blue 12-11 to claim the title. Both teams — Pink and Blue — had one and captains of the three international teams, Farah male and two women's rid-Awadalla (Egypt), Carolyn ers in their line-up. The match that comprised four Stimmel (USA) and Monica Saxena (India) participate.

Action from the final between USA and India.



Anudeep slams ton DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JAN. 26

Hyderabad's Anudeep Javvaji notched up a fine century on the first day of their under-14 South Zone match against Pondi-cherry in Alur near Bengaluru on Sunday. Anudeep's 171-ball knock contained 17 fours. Replying to Hyderabad's 180, Pondicherry were eight for no loss.

#### **BRIEF SCORES**

Boys U-14: Hyderabad 180 in 82 overs (Anudeep Javvaji 106 – 171b, 17X4, B. Vishal 2/29, K. Naresh 2/10, Arun Sarwan 2/34, S. Atchayan 2/46) vs CA Pondicherry 8/0 in 6

overs. Girls U-14: Hyderabad 75/7 in 25 Gins U-14: Hyderabad Vs/1 in 25 overs (Hasini 25, Sai Lakshmi 2/21) lost to Andhra 76/3 in 12.3 overs (P. Vinny Suzan 25).
Women's U-23: Karnataka 192/6 in 50 overs (Shubha 56, Prathyoosha 33, Aditi Rajesh 32) bt Hyderabad 15 in 40 overs (Anuradha Navak 36 156 in 49 overs (Anuradha Nayak 36 Niki Prasad 2/22, Prathyusha 2/18). Points: Karnataka 4, Hyderabad 0.

for 160 in the first half. We understood the angles of the field better, how the pitch was playing and I had to think on my feet as a

in that manner but we thought the pitch was good

captain," he added. Jadeja had the advantage as the ball gripped on this surface. "I think On this surface. 1 think Jadeja was outstanding. Chahal was a banker. Bumrah was amazing as well, and Shami and Shardul and Shivam mak-INDI ing very good contributions with the ball but I think we backed it up in the field more importantly."

have to chase them. Virat Kohli is the perfect example when he goes out to bat and the way he plans his innings. I learn a lot from him personally, the way he grinds out and he tries to finish the game. That's the best part about him," Iyer said.

He also learns a lot from his senior Mumbai teammate Rohit Sharma, who can demolish any attack on his day. "All these amazing characters in the team set a really good example for us youngsters." — *PTI* 

## Hyd U-14 manager Peter passes away

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JAN. 26

Peter Gomes, former Executive Committee member of the Hyderabad Cricket Association and manager of the Hyderabad Under 14 side that is currently playing the South Zone tournament at Alur near Bengaluru, passed away at the team hotel in Bengaluru on Sunday.

He was 69 and left behind his wife, son and daughter. Peter, who had two pace-makers installed in his heart, was not feeling well in the morning and had skipped the first day of the two-day match that is being played at Alur, about 25 kilometres from Bengaluru, where the team

were staying at Southern Star Hotel near the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium.

At about 6 pm, after the team returned from the game, Peter did not respond to the doorbell in his room. His friend and team mentor Pradeep Kodati then got the hotel staff to open the door with an access card only to find him lying on the floor in the washroom.



Peter Gomes

Peter was not feeling well and had skipped the first day of the two-day match being played at Alur, about 25 kms from Bengaluru, where the team were staying.

Mallya Hospital close by (two minutes away) in an ambulance where they pronounced him brought dead. Peter's body will be brought to Hyderabad after post mortem, most likely on Monday. The Karnataka State Cricket Association officials are assisting Peter's family in making necessary arrangements.

He was taken to the



















#### Doubts over Sania



Indian Fed Cup team heaved a sigh of relief after the ITF shifted their Fed Cup matches from the Coronavirus-hit China to Kazakhastan while Sania Mirza could miss the tie due to an injury





# **Cocomania concludes**

beat seven-time

Slam champion

## Gauff loses to Sofia, Federer, Djokovic in Oz Open quarters

Melbourne, Jan Novak Djokovic and Roger Federer swept into the Australian Open quarterfinals but 15-year-old Coco Gauff exited in tears on Sunday after her quest to become the Open era's youngest Grand Slam winner came screeching to a halt.

As Melbourne marked Australia Day with formation jets and a 21-gun salute, world number one Ashleigh Barty had home fans celebefore crowd brating favourite Federer dismantled Marton Fucsovics in the night match.

Djokovic, hunting his eighth Melbourne title, was remorseless against Argentina's Diego Schwartzman, crushing the 14th seed 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 to book an 11th appearance in the last eight.

The Serb's reward is a match-up with big-serving



Coco Gauff in tears after losing to Sofia Kenin in their women's singles fourth round match on Sunday.

Canadian Milos Raonic, who is back in form after a breaking the record set by a 16-year-old Martina Hingis run of injuries and disin 1997 missed 2018 finalist Marin Gauff Cilic 6-4, 6-3, 7-5. Grand

giant-killing Venus Williams in round Gauff's Australian debut generated one and title-holder Naomi hype dubbed 'Cocomania' Osaka in the third, but she as she attempted to become came unstuck against a the youngest Major winner determined Sofia Kenin. in the post-1968 Open Era,

ing the first set but then her fellow American took control and it was one-sided at the finish as Kenin won 6-7 (5/7), 6-3, 6-0. "The thing I'm most proud

of myself is how I handled it on the court," said Gauff, who shed tears after her defeat. Kenin, already on the best Gauff raised hopes by edg-

4-6, 6-1, 6-2, 6-2.

THE RESULTS

**MEN'S SINGLES FOURTH ROUN** 

Milos Raonic (CAN x32) bt Marin Cilic (CRO) 6-4, 6-3,

7-5; Novak Djokovic (SRB x2) bt Diego Schwartzman

(ARG x14) 6-3, 6-4, 6-4; Tennys Sandgren (USA) bt Fabio Fognini (ITA x12) 7-6 (7/5), 7-5, 6-7 (2/7), 6-4;

Roger Federer (SUI x3) bt Marton Fucsovics (HUN)

WOMEN'S SINGLES FOURTH ROUND

Petra Kvitova (CZE x7) bt Maria Sakkari (GRE x22) 6-

7 (4/7), 6-3, 6-2; Sofia Kenin (USA x14) bt Coco Gauff (USA) 6-7 (5/7), 6-3, 6-0; Ons Jabeur (TUN) bt Wang Qiang (CHN x27) 7-6 (7/4), 6-1; Ashleigh Barty (AUS x1) bt Alison Riske (USA x18) 6-3, 1-6, 6-4.

> Grand Slam run of her career, next faces Tunisia's Ons Jabeur, .... China's Wang Qiang. Williams in the third round

but the 27th seed ran out of steam against Jabeur, who fought back from a break down in the first set to win 7-6 (7/4), 6-1.

Jabeur, the highest-ranked Arab woman in history she reached a career-high 51 last year — is the first Tunisian woman to win a main-draw match at the Australian Open.

"I'm really shaking right now, it's unbelievable, I can't describe how I feel," said the 25-year-old.

Australia's Barty had some nervy moments against American Alison Riske, dropping the second set and briefly losing her way before recovering to win 6-3, 1-6, 6-4.

Later, Federer sent ripples of consternation around Rod Laver Arena when he dropped the first set against Hungary's Fucsovics, the world number 67.

But Federer, pushed to a fifth-set tie-breaker by John Millman on Friday, came alive in the second set as he rattled through the match 4--AFP6, 6-1, 6-2, 6-2.

# giants Barcelona

Valencia, Jan. 26: Quique Setien's honeymoon period lasted less than a fortnight as he tasted his first Barcelona defeat on Saturday in his second La Liga game in charge after a 0-2 loss to Valencia.

Fames

A Jordi Alba own goal and Maxi Gomez's strike at Mestalla raised early doubts about Setien's appointment and gave Real Madrid the chance to move three points clear at the top of the table when they visit Real Valladolid on Sunday. Sevilla jumped into third, above Atletico Madrid and five points behind the top two, after they beat Granada 2-0.

Barcelona had most of the ball but Valencia had the best chances as Gomez missed a penalty and also hit the crossbar in the first half. Gabriel Paulista saw a third goal ruled out late on. performances While under previous coach Ernesto Valverde were stodgy and familiar failings went unresolved, he

(Alba 48-og, Gomez 77) Barcelona 0 Espanyol (Tomas 63) **Athletic Bilbao** (Villalibre 12) Alaves (Joselu 80) Villarreal (Bacca 10, Nino 89) Sevilla (De Jong 11, Nolito 34) Granada

THE RESULTS

SATURDAY

Valencia

PAGE

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left a side in first place. Setien promised a new style but few will cheer a team that loses. Despite dominating possession, Barcelona did little with it and as Valencia grew in confidence, they ceded control too.

-AFP



Telangana State's Meghana Reddy poses with the runnersup cheque and trophy after losing to Uttar Pradesh's Mansi Singh 10-21, 10-21 in the girls under-19 final at the Yonex Sunrise all-India junior ranking badminton championship held in Bengaluru on Sunday.

# Shuttler Meghana settles for silver

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDFRABAD, JAN, 26

Telangana's Meghana Reddy went down to defending champion Mansi Singh in the under-19 final at the Yonex Sunrise all-India Junior Ranking Badminton Championships that concluded in Bengaluru on Sunday. Meghana, who reached the title clash via tough knockout stage matches, lost 10-21, 10-21 in a lop-sided final to Uttar Pradesh's Mansi. Earlier in the semifinal, the Bharatiya Bhavan Atmakuri Rama Rao School, Jubilee Hills student, got past West Bengal's Uthasav Palit 21-19, 22-20 to make the last-two round. quarterfinal, the In Meghana — who is training at the Sports Authority of India Gopichand National Academy in the city, rallied

from a game down to beat Punjab's Radhika Sharma 7-21, 21-14, 22-20 to advance to

the penultimate stage. Meghana, who is the daughter of a Telangana police officer, has won as many as 12 national titles in



both singles and doubles categories in various age groups. In 2019, the class 11 student, won the Telangana State senior women's badchampionship. minton Meghana along with Mansi will represent India at the tournaments to be held in Netherlands and the

#### Germany. THE RESULTS

FINAL: Meghana Reddy (TS) lost to Manshi Singh (UP) 10-21. 10-21

SEMIFINAL: Meghana Reddy bt Uthasav Palit (WB) 21-19, 22-20

**QUARTERFINALS:** Meghana Reddy bt Radhika Sharma (Punjab) 21-7, 14-21, 20-22.

#### CITY CLIPS

#### Samuel basketball tourney from Feb.10

The Sports Writers' Association of Telangana, under the aegis of the Hyderabad District Basketball Association, is organising the Samuel Vasanth Memorial Open Basketball tournament for men at the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) in Secunderabad from February 10 to 15. The tournament will be played on a knockout basis.

Interested team should send-in their entries to Norman Isaac on 9440048210 or Raja Reddy on 9666600091 latest by February 5. The entry fee for the tournament is ₹500. The fixtures of the tournament will be announced on February 7.

Once the players have registered for a team, they can only compete for the same side.

#### AOC claim Rahim football league

 $R_{\mathrm{Corps}}^{\mathrm{iding}}$  on a fine goal from Rahul, The Army Ordnance Telangana Football Association's 'A' division Rahim football super league championship played at the Gymkhana grounds in the city on Sunday. In the first half, both teams tried to break the deadlock

but failed miserably. Artillery Centre's forwards missed a couple of close chances to score in the first-half. Against the run of play, Rahul found the back of the net in the 85th minute for AOC and that was enough for AOC to win the title.

Sachdev Football Club was awarded the Fair Play Award. After the final, the TFA launched their website, http://www.the-tfa.com.

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