

Amidst a tragedy, an opportunity

The raging bushfires give India and Australia a chance to deepen their dialogue, including on energy



The writer David Horne once described Australia as “the lucky country”, with its abundance of natural resources, good weather, and its relative geographical isolation from the turbulence of the world. Today, with wildfires burning more than 12 million hectares of land, destroying native flora, killing thousands of wild animals, including endangered species, and displacing residents and tourists, Australia is confronted with a dystopian vision, where “apocalypse becomes the new normal”, to borrow the title of a recent op-ed by Nobel laureate, Paul Krugman.

Dialogue on energy

At this moment of crisis, and while the tragedy of the bushfires is still unfolding, New Delhi and Canberra have a rare opportunity: to translate their rapidly converging interests and coalescing of values into a formidable partnership for the 21st century. When I co-chaired the Australia India Leadership Dialogue last month in Melbourne, the breadth and depth of the relationship was evident, as was the scope for the future in diverse areas, including the grand challenges facing our planet. Clearly, as a consequence of the bushfires, the debate on global warming, climate change and fossil fuels is going to intensify in the weeks ahead, even while scientists grapple with the new evidence. Australia’s celebrated novelist Richard Flanagan concluded in a powerful, if controversial, essay: “Australia today is ground zero for the climate catastrophe.” As evidence, he pointed out that the Great Barrier Reef “is dying”, the “world-heritage rain forests are burning”, giant kelp forests have disappeared, “numerous towns have run out of water or are about to, and now the vast continent is burning on a scale never before seen.” Mr. Flanagan is not alone; environmental activism has gained ground throughout the country, and while the Indian Ocean Dipole may have triggered the drought that is related to the fires, the campaign against fos-



“While the Indian Ocean Dipole may have triggered the drought that is related to the bushfires, the campaign against fossil fuels is sure to intensify in the days to come.” Firefighters in Australia’s Meroo National Park. •NVT

sil fuels and the export of coal is sure to intensify in the days to come. As two economies with a great stakeholding in fossil fuels, it is critical for India and Australia to ensure that their dialogue on energy acquires momentum. This will require a joint scientific task force to disinter the latest evidence linking climate change and extreme climatic events with fossil fuels and to study the promise and potential of “clean” coal technology. Both countries must simultaneously strengthen the International Solar Alliance and the search for other alternative green fuels. The Leadership Dialogue also recognised that we are living through a period of immense turbulence, disruption and even subversion. For instance, the near overwhelming presence of an illiberal, totalitarian China, increasingly unilateralist, interventionist and mercantilist and willing to write its own rules, is the single biggest challenge to our two countries. Not even our thought leaders of the future or political representatives today, especially in Australian universities and democratic institutions, are sanitised from Beijing’s surveillance or longer-term grand designs. Fortunately, in New Delhi there is a near consensus within the political leadership and the strategic community that the Australia-India relationship is an idea whose time has well and truly come. From water management to trauma research to skills and higher education, from maritime and cybersecurity to counterterrorism, a world of opportunities awaits the two countries if they can work in coordination.

A few years ago, the Australia-India Institute at the University of Melbourne, in partnership with the Sydney-based Lowy Institute, commissioned one of the most comprehensive surveys of Indian public opinion on key foreign policy issues and critical challenges of governance. Indians ranked Australia in the top four nations towards which they feel most warmly. Only the U.S., Singapore and Japan ranked higher. Today, Indians feel warmer towards Australia than towards European countries and BRICS nations. Apart from being two English-speaking, multicultural, federal democracies that believe in and respect the rule of law, both have a strategic interest in ensuring a free, open, inclusive and rules-based Indo-Pacific region in which the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity are ensured. In addition, Indians are today the largest source of skilled migrants in Australia and the economic relationship, already robust, could potentially be transformed if the promise of the Peter Varghese and Anil Wadhwa reports, commissioned by the two governments, is realised. In Canberra, there is considerable sensitivity to India’s concerns over the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership while there is still hope that there is an early conclusion of a bilateral Free Trade Agreement.

An important partner

After more than six decades characterised by misperception, lack of trust, neglect, missed opportunities and even hostility, a new chapter in India’s relations with Australia has well and truly begun. Consider this:

in 1955, Prime Minister Robert Menzies decided that Australia should not take part in the Bandung Afro-Asian conference. By distancing Australia from the ‘new world’, Menzies (who would later confess that Occidentals did not understand India) alienated Indians, offended Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, and left Australia unsure for decades about its Asian identity. India and Australia should bring this chequered past to a closure, and herald a new united front for the Indo-Pacific. Nearly a decade ago, when I decided to be the inaugural director of the Australia India Institute at Melbourne, it was seen as a giant leap of faith. I had not visited Australia before and had little knowledge of the country. My friends warned me that I was literally going “Down Under”, soon to become irrelevant and marginal to all policy issues in India. At school, my teenage daughters were told they risked being bashed up in school and college, and my extended family was astounded. But today I have no doubt that it was one of the best decisions of my life. With not one unpleasant experience in the country, as a family we have found Australians open, friendly, fair, accepting and generous, and the country a model of good governance. In her account of India-Australia bilateral relations, historian Meg Gurry relates how Arthur Tange, High Commissioner to India and one of Australia’s most formidable diplomats, wrote in 1965 to his Foreign Minister, Paul Hasluck, that there was fertile ground between the two countries, but “no one seems to know what seed to plant”. More than 50 years on, there are not only many seeds waiting to be planted, but also ripe fruit ready to harvest. While Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison, who postponed his visit to India because of the bushfires, will be missed at the Raisina Dialogue, one hopes that one immediate decision that he will take by New Delhi and Canberra is to elevate the ‘two plus two’ format for talks from the secretary level to the level of foreign and defence ministers. That should signal that New Delhi recognises Canberra as important a partner as Washington and Tokyo.

Amitabh Mattoo is Professor of Disarmament Studies at JNU and honorary Professor in the Faculty of Arts, University of Melbourne

The road to radicalisation

Oversimplification of factors that push an individual to engage in acts of violence will lead to poor policymaking



Whenever there are acts of violence, there is an urgency to label them as acts of terror. The basis for categorisation of violent acts as terrorist acts include the type of weapons used in the killings, the beliefs of the accused, the number of people killed, etc. Categorising violence is important, but if it is done without due thought or diligence, it could end up harming the affected state or community and lead to vastly different policy imperatives. Three attacks last year, one in the U.K. and two in the U.S.’s military facilities, illustrate this point clearly.

Complex reality

The stabbing at London Bridge in the U.K., and the shootings at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam and Pensacola Naval Air Station in the U.S., were all quickly characterised by sections of the media and by analysts as ‘lone wolf’ attacks. The reality is more complex. Though all three cases are still under investigation, news reports establish the fact that Usman Khan, the London Bridge attacker, was not a lone wolf. Khan, a radical preacher, had been arrested earlier in a major counterterrorism operation. He had spent eight years in prison, before being released in December 2018, for plotting to bomb the London Stock Exchange. The attack in the Pearl Harbor military base in Hawaii was also classified as a lone wolf attack, but since the attacker’s motive seemed to have been non-political, it may be classified as homicide. Mohammad Al-Shamrani, who was training to be a pilot at the Naval Air Station in Pensacola, Florida, and carried out the third attack, seems to fit the profile of a lone wolf. Al-Shamrani had professed anger towards the U.S. for its policies against Muslims. His family said that he had never shown any inclination towards extremism or violence. And no group claimed responsibility for the attack.

In the first case, by labelling Khan a lone wolf, many discounted the influence of an extremist organisation’s concerted efforts at recruiting individuals to its cause. The focus of counterterrorism programmes are on individuals and do not take into consideration overarching structural factors in play; an individual who is getting radicalised because of propaganda on the Internet is simply called “self-radicalised”. A majority of programmes on counter extremism or terrorism

aiming at cognitive change concentrate their efforts on a single aspect without taking into account a host of factors. There is also no statistical correlation between the number of people admitted to such programmes and the number of people who emerge ‘deradicalised’, as admitted tacitly by Khan’s supervisors at the Healthy Identity Intervention Programme at Belmarsh prison, where he was incarcerated for eight years.

Process of radicalisation

The second issue is how the process of radicalisation is perceived by analysts and academics. Most consider radicalisation as a linear process where the individual goes through a number of stages. The most common model is the one designed by the New York Police Department, which believes that radicalisation has four steps. The first stage, pre-radicalisation, assumes an individual to be a blank slate, at best, or an eager receptor, at worst. This is followed by self-identification where he or she realises the uniqueness of his or her identity. Then comes the stage of indoctrination and, finally, jihadisation. Conversely, a major element of a person committing murder in the pursuit of an alleged political objective is what I call ‘radicalising cumulatives’, an aggregation of factors, structural and causal, that may push him to do this. Of course, the final cognitive step of actually committing violence cannot be prejudged accurately every time.

The final issue is that of the divide between the state and the family. The state’s coercive institutions do not directly interfere into familial structures and hierarchies, where the likelihood of influencing factors is very high. A significant number of attacks have been carried out by second generation or later generations of immigrants. The patriarchal nature of the immigrants’ families may be one of the reasons behind this phenomena and this needs to be investigated further. However, the state’s right to intrude into the family has been limited by a number of regulations that afford all citizens the right to privacy and considerable autonomy. This dilemma of finding the right balance between security and autonomy needs to be delved upon. ‘Prevent’, the U.K.’s disastrous attempt at involving civil society and local communities in its fight against terrorism, has shown that this is a major issue for civilised societies. No society can benefit by oversimplifying the factors that push an individual towards violence. Oversimplification will mean that we will be left with poor policies.

Akshat Upadhyay is a serving officer of the Indian Army and author of ‘Coercive Diplomacy Against Pakistan’. Views are personal

The domestic perils of Trump’s adventurism abroad

By killing Soleimani, he has driven a deeper wedge between political constituents at home

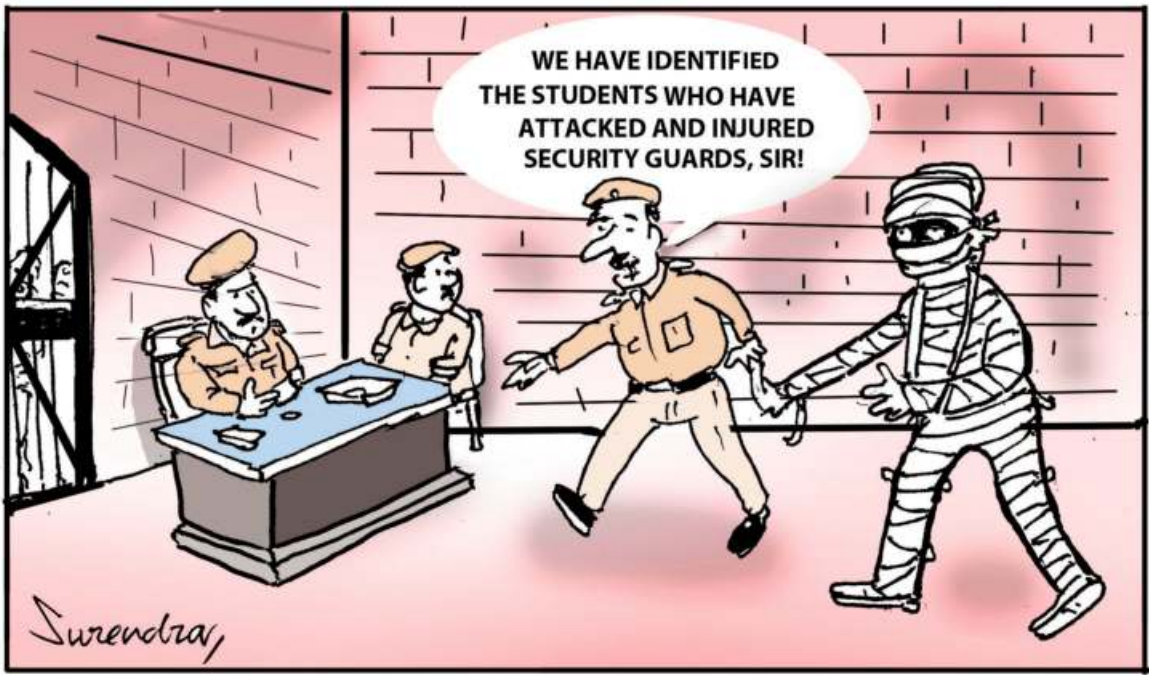
NARAYAN LAKSHMAN

U.S. President Donald Trump’s decision to assassinate top Iranian military commander Qassem Soleimani has faced brickbats abroad for the risks that it poses to peace in West Asia and beyond. But there is also little doubt that in embarking on this adventurist path of antagonising Tehran, the American President has driven a deeper wedge between political constituents at home. Deepening fear and anger First, in invoking the spectre of national security to justify the assassination, Mr. Trump has endangered American persons and assets, military and civilian, abroad. A bill passed in the Iranian parliament this week designated all U.S. forces involved in the “martyrdom” of Soleimani as “terrorists”. Every one of them could now potentially find themselves in the cross hairs of the inevitable reprisal that will originate from an angry Iranian regime. Second, Mr. Trump’s strike against Iran has deepened the sense of angst and hostility on Capitol Hill, where partisan bickering has already polarised lawmakers over the impeachment of the President in an election year. Now the House is formulating a response to Mr. Trump not notifying it in advance of the drone strike that killed Soleimani. The Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, Nancy Pelosi, and her Democratic colleagues will do so via a war powers resolution – even if there are slim chances of the Republican-controlled Senate passing any such bill into law. Mr. Trump could only continue so far without running afoul of the 1973 War Powers Act. The Act requires that the President inform Congress within 48 hours of introducing military forces into armed conflict abroad. Second, it bars the president from committing armed forces to any foreign action lasting over 60 days without Congressional approval. Already questions of presidential propriety have been raised regarding Mr. Trump’s decision to make the White

House’s notification to Congress on the Soleimani strike a classified document, a move clearly aimed at limiting transparency on the subject. A third strand of domestic opposition to Mr. Trump’s agenda in West Asia comes from the American public. Last weekend, anti-war protests swirled through communities across the U.S. Protesters numbering from a few hundred to more than a thousand called for an end to the hostility against Iran and Iraq. This begs the question: what is the exit strategy Mr. Trump and his team have in mind for their West Asia strategy, one that they will have to explain to their domestic constituents? Washington has steadily nudged Tehran onto the warpath – first by scuttling the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, then by slapping Iran with crushing sanctions, and finally by killing Soleimani.

More hostility towards the U.S. The White House appears to have exponentially multiplied hostility against itself from Baghdad as well – as the strike against Soleimani was at the Baghdad airport, U.S. personnel in the country might be considered targets of the Iranian regime. It was thus entirely unsurprising that the Iraqi parliament voted to have U.S. troops withdraw from their country within an unspecified time frame. Saudi Arabia may also have been displeased with the strike, however ironic that may seem, particularly given the intelligence that Soleimani was in the process of taking forward proposals to de-escalate tensions between Riyadh and Tehran. Mr. Trump may have won himself a reprieve from the negative publicity associated with his impeachment by the House of Representatives last month. However, if he sees military adventurism on foreign soil – missions that at best have a hazy strategic denouement – as a legitimate means to divert attention from issues in domestic politics, he may well be opening the door to forces that are genuinely beyond his control.

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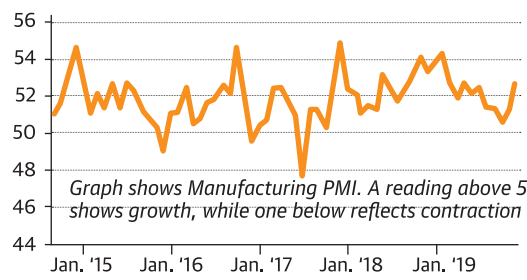


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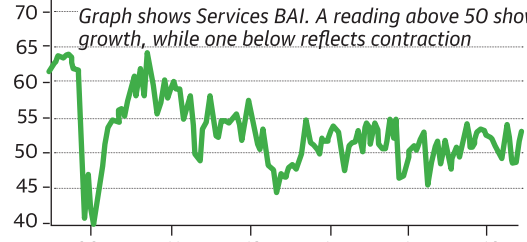
Recovery on the cards?

According to the first advanced estimates of Real GDP growth released on Tuesday, the economy is set to grow at the slowest pace since FY09, when the global financial crisis played out. However, certain indicators from November and December 2019 show that the economy may improve in the second half of FY20. The growth rate in the final months of last year, though still slow-paced, hints at a possible revival

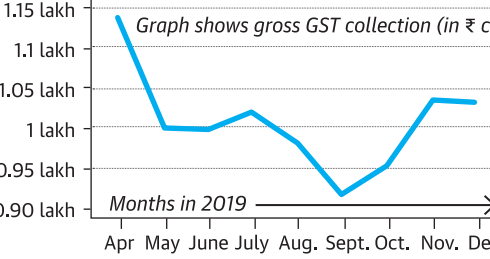
Manufacturing sector | In Dec. ‘19, the Manufacturing Purchasing Managers Index (PMI)*, which measures a combination of new orders, output and employment of 400 manufacturers, rose to 52.7, the highest in 10 months



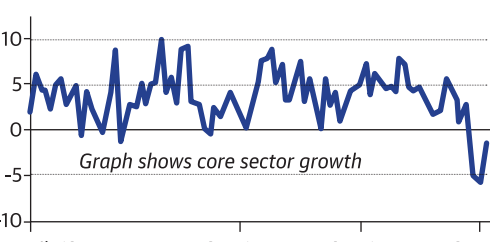
Services sector | In Dec. ‘19, the Services Business Activity Index (BAI)*, which measures changes in the volume of business activity of 400 service sector companies, rose to 53.3 from 52.7 in November, the second-highest rate of increase in output in over a year (after July)



Steady tax collections | GST collections, which had dipped to this financial year’s lowest in September 2019, recovered in the following months. December is the second straight month that GST collections crossed the ₹1 lakh crore mark



Core sector | As for the core sector growth figures, the output of the eight core sector industries contracted by 1.5% in November. This was the fourth continuous month of decline, but it was still an improvement from the contractions recorded in October (5.8%) & September (5.1%)



Compiled by Vignesh Radhakrishnan | Source: Office of the Economic Adviser, *compiled by IHS Markit

The Hindu.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FIFTY YEARS AGO JANUARY 8, 1970

Privy purse abolition

The Internal Affairs Committee of the Union Cabinet to-day [January 7, New Delhi] had a detailed discussion on the abolition of privy purses. Mr. Y. B. Chavan, Home Minister, who is meeting the princes to-morrow [January 8] in what is described as the final round of talks, explained to his colleagues the trend of the discussions he had with them some days ago. It is learnt that a firm decision has been taken by the Committee to introduce legislation abolishing privy purses during the Budget session of Parliament. The main question that is now engaging the attention of the Government is the modus operandi in regard to actual abolition. There is a proposal to pay compensation to the princes in instalments. According to a tentative formula finalised to-day the number of instalments will be 20 and there will be variable amounts depending on the quantum of the privy purse now enjoyed by the different category of princes. The princes, however, are not quite happy over this mode of payment since they are not sure that the Government would continue to honour its commitments till all the instalments are cleared.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JANUARY 8, 1920.

The Congress Programme.

Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar B.A. B.L., Editor, “Swadesa Mitran” writes: – The unique sequence of events which have been crowded into the past fortnight in the history of India can hardly be ignored by any thinking Indian and it may be useful to take just a cursory survey of them with a view to indicate the immediate work that looms before Indian Nationalists. That the Indian National Congress Session of the year forms one of the greatest landmarks in the political history of the country can admit of no doubt. Although the moderates have re-christened their insignificant gathering by the pompous name of the National Liberal Federation, it is evident that under the guidance of the new-born, though lukewarm, political enthusiasm of Sir. P.S. Sivaswami Iyer and the out of date political oratory of Babu Surendra Nath Banerjee, it is hardly likely to carry the country along the path of national progress with anything like the fire of the genuine national movement that animates the whole country.

FROM PAGE ONE



Offering support: JNUSU president Aishe Ghosh, left, with CPI(M) general secretary Sitaram Yechury on Tuesday. •PTI

None held for violence on JNU campus

Scores of JNU alumni, including Prakash Karat, Sitaram Yechury and Kanhaiya Kumar, all past JNUSU presidents, staged a protest outside the campus on Tuesday, demanding action against the masked goons responsible for Sunday's attack. Mr. Yechury said the attack was not a fight between two groups, but a pre-planned attack to terrorise the student community. "The targeting of JNU started with the appointment of this V-C," the general secretary of the CPI(M) said.

A growing number of celebrities have come out against the violence un-

leashed by masked hoodlums in JNU. Actor Deepika Padukone visited the campus to express solidarity with those attacked and spoke to Ms. Ghosh. Protests continued in solidarity with the students, including one in Kathmandu, led by JNU alumnus and former Nepalese Prime Minister Baburam Bhattarai. "JNU alumni in Nepal come out in large numbers to express solidarity with their alma mater. JNU is not only a university, it is an idea of freedom, creativity, critical thinking & resistance to injustice," Mr. Bhattarai said in a tweet.

4 Nirbhaya case convicts to be hanged on Jan. 22

The convicts can still move a curative petition before the top court against their conviction and death penalty. Once the curative petition, the last judicial resort available for redressal of grievances in a court of law, is dismissed, the convicts can seek a pardon from the President. During the Tuesday hearing, advocate Vrinda Grover, who was appointed as amicus curiae to assist the court in the case, said both Mukesh and Vinay wanted to file a curative petition before the top court. After the court reserved its order around 3 p.m., the mother of convict Mukesh came crying towards the court room urging the judge to show mercy. The court, however,

declined to entertain her. Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal tweeted: "There is some sense of satisfaction after the issuance of death warrant against the convicts in the Nirbhaya case. It took seven years. This system will have to change. Such a system must be put in place which ensures that rapist are hanged within six months". The National Commission for Women said the verdict would act as deterrent to crime against women. The Congress welcomed the decision, saying that it would give peace to the victim's family and the country. The BJP said the decision would empower women and strengthen people's faith in the judiciary.

Ministry projects slower GDP growth

Experts, however, feel that it may be difficult to achieve the projected 5% growth given the rising oil prices and expected decline in government expenditure. "The achievement of the annual 5% growth will be challenging given the global tensions, rising oil prices and expectation of a deceleration in government expenditures given stress on the revenue front. These factors will limit the growth rates in Q4 too," Ranen Banerjee, Leader-Public Finance and Economics, PwC India said. As per the advance estimates, agriculture, forestry and fishing sector will grow by 2.8% almost at the same pace as in

2018-19 when it grew by 2.9%, while 'Electricity, Gas, Water Supply and Other Utility Services' sector is expected to grow by 5.4% as compared to a growth of 7% in 2018-19. "The key news in the first advanced estimates...is the fall in the nominal GDP growth to 7.5% in FY20 as compared to the previous peak of 13.8% in FY13. This fall translates into a fall in tax revenues and an increase in the fiscal deficit which are detrimental to growth," DK Srivastava, chief policy adviser, EY India, said. He said crude prices are expected to go up further putting pressure on the fiscal deficit.

Convict's mother pleads for mercy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI
An hour before a Delhi court directed that the four convicts in the 2012 Nirbhaya gang-rape and murder case be hanged on January 22, the mother of one of them, Mukesh Singh, pleaded with the court and Nirbhaya's mother to forgive her son. While the judge refused to entertain her plea, Nirbhaya's mother said; "I had a daughter too." The convict's mother entered the courtroom towards the end of the hearing, holding her sari in a gesture of begging.

Family will find peace: Congress

This will empower women and strengthen people's faith in judiciary, says BJP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI
The Congress on Tuesday welcomed the issuance of death warrants against the four Nirbhaya case convicts, saying it would give peace to her family and the country, but rued the delay in justice delivery. The convicts – Mukesh, 32, Pawan Gupta, 25, Vinay Sharma, 26, and Akshay Kumar Singh, 31, – will be hanged on January 22 at 7 a.m. in Tihar jail, a Delhi court said on Tuesday. Welcoming the order, Congress spokesperson Sushmita Dev told PTI, "I feel justice delayed is justice denied. Af-

'Examine plea on notes with slogans in J&K'

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI
The Supreme Court has asked Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta to look into a petition seeking a court-monitored CBI investigation into an alleged exchange of ₹30 crore worth notes allegedly stamped with separatist slogans at the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) branch in Jammu. Appearing before a Bench led by Chief Justice of India Sharad A. Bobde on Tuesday, the petitioner-in-person, Satish Bhardwaj, said a 'separatist group' called Kashmir Graffiti made a statement on Facebook that they stamped the currency notes with the slogans in August 2013. Mr. Bhardwaj said that to his best knowledge and according to media reports, the notes were "defaced" with "seditious and anti-India" slogans. The group had even posted a video of it on YouTube. The notes were exchanged at the Jammu branch of the RBI, he claimed.

Centre invites foreign envoys to Srinagar

Five months after scrapping Article 370, they have been asked to assess situation

SUHASINI HAIDAR
PEERZADA ASHIQ
NEW DELHI/SRINAGAR
Five months after its decision on Article 370, the government has invited the first group of Delhi-based diplomats to travel to Srinagar and assess the situation there, and is now awaiting a response from them. Unlike the controversial visit of the Members of European Parliament (MEPs) delegation in October, which was invited by a British businesswoman and a think tank in Delhi, this visit is being organised completely by the government, including the Ministries of External Affairs, Home Affairs and Defence. Arrangements in place According to sources in Delhi and Srinagar, security and hotel and travel arrangements are in place for the visit, expected as early as this week. The Hindu has learnt that the invitation has been extended to about 20 Ambassadors and senior diplomats from the European Union,



Trouble brewing: Clashes broke out in Srinagar after a teenage student was run over by a police vehicle on Tuesday. •NISSAR AHMAD

Gulf countries, members of the UN Security Council, UNHRC and others to visit Kashmir and government agencies have organised for them to meet with various civil society groups, journalists, sarpanchs, municipal councillors as well as local businessmen there. Officials have already contacted many of the interlocutors expected to meet the delegation, and the logistics of

the visit will be organised by the Army. Several interactions are scheduled at the Badamibagh Cantonment area. However, it is unclear whether the first batch of visitors will go to Jammu and Kashmir as originally planned on January 9, and whether all invitees, particularly those from the European Union countries, will attend.

According to diplomats from at least four of the countries invited, none of whom agreed to be identified, the invitation has been discussed at a meeting of all European Union (EU) missions in Delhi, but they have not yet confirmed their acceptance. "The proposal [from the government] is being discussed by EU members. We have decided that our res-

ponse will be a joint one, common to us all," said one of the diplomats. **Seek more access** Asked why there has been no confirmation for the programme as yet, a diplomat told *The Hindu* that the group of Ambassadors were not satisfied to undertake the visit on the same terms as the MEPs delegation was taken on, and wanted more access to their own contacts on the ground as well as a wider range of areas to visit. "Our response will depend on how much flexibility the government shows and whether there will be a balance of views taken into account." After the last visit, at least one British MEP had expressed his unhappiness. Officials said a wider range of interlocutors had indeed been planned, and different agencies had been asked to prepare lists well in advance for the diplomats' visit, which had been due to take place shortly after the MEP delegation in October, but couldn't be held.

JNU professor Chandrasekhar quits panel to review data

I have lost faith in govt. after violence at university, he says

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI
C.P. Chandrasekhar of the JNU's Centre for Economic Studies and Planning on Tuesday said he had resigned from a government panel set up to review the country's economic statistical data as he did not "trust the government to come up with a robust and transparent plan to restore the credibility of the statistical system which has been undermined in the recent past". The Statistics Ministry had constituted a Standing Committee on Statistics, chaired by former Chief Statistician Pronab Sen, to im-



prove the quality of data amid criticism of the government over political interference. Professor Chandrasekhar, who lives on the JNU campus, said that after Sunday's violence, he had lost faith in the government. "My house

was not attacked but I could see the mobs attacking people on the campus. If this can happen at JNU, it can happen anywhere else. I have been at JNU as a student as well and never has such a situation arisen. A masked mob ran riot with the police standing as spectators," he said. "I used to be part of several statistical committees set up by the government, but now, with the government bringing in the National Population Register, which is a statistical issue that will then be linked to the National Register of Citizens I cannot be part of such an 'umbrella committee,'" he said.

'90% of promises in BJP manifesto fulfilled'

Govt. has tackled issues that previous regimes were scared of taking on, says Home Minister Shah

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI
Alluding to the achievement of several of the BJP's ideological goals within six months of the second Modi government assuming power, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said his party has given sanction to the election manifesto by fulfilling almost 90% of the promises made in it. Mr. Shah was speaking at an event to release a book on Prime Minister Narendra Modi entitled *Karmayoddha*. "You pick the manifesto of the BJP and you can see 90% of the work promises in it has been done. There have been issues that the governments were scared to take up. Be it scrapping of Article 370, Article 35a, giving citi-



zenship to refugees, taking a clear stand on the Ram Janmabhoomi issue, removing triple talaq – people were scared to touch them. But Modi has taken a stand on the issues with clarity and resolved them," said Mr. Shah. "In one way, the sanctity

of the manifestos has increased. Media persons also started looking at it. On some issues, when I tried to deflect questions, they remind me that it is written in our manifesto. Narendra Modi has created a new culture that people see the manifestos as a road map for the governance," he added. The Home Minister's remarks are also important in the backdrop of the protests over the proposed implementation of a National Register of Citizens (NRC) following the passage of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act late last year. While the BJP manifesto for the 2019 election mentions a future implementation of the NRC, Mr. Modi declared at a public meeting in New Delhi that no discussions had taken place on the issue within the government. 'Challenges faced' Mr. Shah also went into details of the challenges faced by Mr. Modi when he became Chief Minister of Guja-

rat, with the BJP in disarray and the earthquake that hit the State. He asserted that Mr. Modi had removed three demons – appeasement, casteism and dynasty politics – that had infested the country's governments in the past. "People have appreciated it and re-elected him for politics of performance.. What will happen and how will it happen, what will people say – these kind of questions have been removed from the system...teh Modi government has never taken a decision to please the people. Earlier it used to be like that because they wanted to get the people's votes. But Mr. Modi has taken the decisions that would be good for the people," Mr. Shah said.

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
SRINAGAR
Family members of the late Mufti Muhammad Sayeed, former Chief Minister and patron of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), were denied permission to visit the leader's grave on his fourth death anniversary on Tuesday. Sayeed's granddaughter Iltija Mufti alleged that she was stopped from stepping outside her residence in Srinagar's Gupkar Road. "Despite fulfilling all the formalities and informing the authorities in advance, the Special Security Group stopped me. No one was allowed to meet me. I was pushed and sustained bruises too. Is this a sign of normalcy," Ms. Iltija said.

Justice at last: Nirbhaya's family

Mother says hanging will restore women's faith in law

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI/BALLIA
The hanging of the convicts in the Nirbhaya rape case will restore women's faith in law, the victim's mother said on Tuesday. The victim's grandfather, residing at her native village bordering Bihar, said, "Though late, the family has got justice." Thanking the judiciary, he said that though the court took almost seven years to complete the entire process, "No one can say that he [the convicts] was denied a chance to be heard." "It is a big relief for the family," he said. Nirbhaya, a 23-year-old

Though late, the family has got justice ... no one can say that he was denied a chance to be heard ... It is a big relief for the family
NIRBHAYA'S GRANDFATHER
paramedic student, was gang-raped and assaulted on the intervening night of December 16 and 17 in 2012, in a moving bus in south Delhi by six persons, before being dumped on the road. She died on December 29, 2012, at Mount Elizabeth Hospital in Singapore, where she was shifted for treatment.

One of the six accused, Ram Singh, allegedly committed suicide in the Tihar Jail in 2013. **Plea for convict** An hour before the court issued the death warrants against the four convicts, the mother of one of them, Mukesh Singh, pleaded with the court and Nirbhaya's mother to forgive her son. While the judge refused to entertain her plea, Nirbhaya's mother said: "I had a daughter too." The convict's mother entered the courtroom towards the end of the hearing in the case, holding her sari in a gesture of begging.

SC Bar flays violence on JNU campus

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Executive Committee of the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) on Tuesday condemned the violence against Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) students on the campus by an armed and masked mob on January 5.

The resolution coincided with several senior lawyers gathering at the Supreme Court lawns to read out the Preamble to the Constitution as a mark of protest against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, the National Register of Citizens and violence committed against students and peaceful protesters across the country. The SCBA called the masked perpetrators “anti-social elements”. It condemned the inaction of the Delhi police in the face of the brutalities against the students.

AASU plans protest against PM

Students say they will oppose Modi’s visit to Assam for opening ‘Khelo India’

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The North East Students’ Organisation (NESO) and the All Assam Students’ Union (AASU) said on Tuesday that they would protest if Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the State for the Khelo India Games 2020, scheduled from January 10.

The two influential students’ unions demanded scrapping of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, saying they could not allow “illegal Bangladeshis” to flood the region and rule over indigenous people.

“The Khelo India events starts in Assam from January 10. We welcome the sportspersons and others but if Prime Minister Narendra Modi visits, there will be protests, but in a non-violent manner. Do not treat North-east people as second class citizens; we oppose the CAA,” Samujjal Kumar Bhat-



The All Assam Students’ Union is at the forefront of protests against the CAA.

tacharjya, adviser to the AASU, said at a press conference in Delhi.

Sonowal’s betrayal
The two student bodies accused Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal of betraying the people of the State by supporting the new legislation.

Mr. Bhattacharjya asked whether the Prime Minister and Home Minister Amit Shah will allow illegal Pakistanis to enter Gujarat through the border “the way

they are allowing Bangladeshis to come to Assam”.

“CAA is communal, it is a protector of illegal Bangladeshis. Anti-CAA movement is not anti-national because it is a national movement. CAA is against the Constitution. We will continue our non-violent agitation against the new law till it is scrapped,” he said.

Mr. Bhattacharjya said the AASU and the NESO were non-political bodies and “we are not aligned with any political party; we are fighting for the nation, for the country, for the motherland.”

“All political parties have betrayed and failed the people of Assam. A class X student was killed but the Centre and State governments, the PM and Home Minister Amit Shah are mum. They switched off streetlights and killed them, can you believe this? We need help, save Assam, save

Northeast,” he said.

He said there were 33 districts in Assam and seven were exempted from CAA as they fell in the Sixth Schedule (tribal) areas. “If CAA is not good for seven districts, how is it good for the rest of Assam?” Mr. Bhattacharya asked.

Burden of migrants
NESO Chairman Samuel B. Jyrwa and Secretary-General Sinam Prakash Singh said the new law will only add to the burden of illegal infiltration on the Northeast, which has taken the brunt of such migrants from 1947 to 1971. “Sonowal was given a mandate by the people of Assam with the hope that he will implement the 1985 Assam Accord under which any illegal immigrant, irrespective of religion, who entered India after 1971 has to be deported,” Mr. Bhattacharjya said.

12 injured as NSUI, ABVP workers clash in Ahmedabad

NSUI leader admitted to hospital with wounds on the head

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
AHMEDABAD

At least 12 persons, including NSUI general secretary Nikhil Savani, were injured in a clash between NSUI and ABVP workers here on Tuesday.

Mr. Savani sustained serious head injuries and was admitted to V.S. Hospital in the city. Late at night, the Ahmedabad police registered a First Information Report (FIR) naming Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha president Rutvij Patel, former president Pradipsinh Vaghela and 70 others.

“We have filed an FIR and launched a probe,” a police officer from Zone I said.

The clash occurred when the NSUI workers tried to stage a protest in front of the ABVP office against the violence at Jawaharlal Nehru



More violence: A screen shot from video footage shows ABVP and NSUI members clashing in Ahmedabad on Tuesday. •PTI

University (JNU) in New Delhi. ABVP members, armed with sticks, allegedly came down heavily on the NSUI workers.

As the clashes continued, the police resorted to a baton-charge to disperse the crowd at Paldi.

NSUI national president Neeraj Kundan condemned

the incident. The ABVP maintained that NSUI members came to its office and turned violent.

Gujarat Congress president Amit Chavda demanded that an attempt to murder case be filed against ABVP and Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha workers as Mr. Savani was brutally assaulted.

Factional feud in AGP over citizenship Act intensifies

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

An Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) faction supporting Prafulla Kumar Mahanta staged a protest at the party headquarters here on Tuesday after the founder-president of the party was denied space in the building to hold a meeting.

The AGP, an ally of the ruling BJP in Assam, has been divided on the issue of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act. While the party leadership has sided with the BJP on the law, the section led by Mr. Mahanta is opposed to it.

Protests erupted after Mr.



Security personnel standing guard in front of the AGP head office in Guwahati. •PTI

Mahanta, along with his supporters, found the party headquarters locked in the morning. The administration deployed security personnel as the situation seemed to go out of control.

The group later decided to hold the meeting in a nearby hall. “The CAA is an open invitation to Bangladeshis to come and settle down in Assam,” Mr. Mahanta said.

Though the other faction, headed by AGP president and Minister Atul Bora, has said that it was against the CAA, it is on the same page with the BJP on the issue.

Phani Bhushan Choudhury, a Minister in Mr. Bora’s camp, said: “It was not a party meeting and thus had no significance.” He urged Mr. Mahanta not to indulge in activities that may harm the party.

HC seeks report on AMU violence

Two-judge Bench orders NHRC to submit the findings of the probe in a month

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GHAZIABAD

The Allahabad High Court has issued directions to the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) to submit a report in one month on the alleged police aggression in the Aligarh Muslim University on December 15.

Listening to the criminal writ petition filed by advocate Aman Khan, the two-judge Bench of Chief Justice Govind Mathur and Justice Vivek Varma said, “The facts of the instant case indicate alleged violation of human rights and negligence in the prevention of such violation.



The photographs annexed with the petition reflect certain serious happenings that are termed by the petitioner as violation of human rights, also amounting to commission of cognisable crime
ALLAHABAD HIGH COURT

We have not looked into the video footage, which is said to be available with the petitioner and compact discs, which are placed on record by the respondents along with the counter. However, the photographs annexed with the petition reflect certain serious happenings that

are termed by the petitioner as violation of human rights, also amounting to commission of cognisable crime. The narration of facts certainly demands a probe.” The HC said for the purpose of the inquiry, the Commission should treat the memo of the petition for writ as a

complaint submitted to it.

Reacting to the order Mr. Khan said, “We didn’t want NHRC probe per se, but relief is that the HC has kept the matter before itself after inquiry.”

Explaining why he didn’t want an NHRC probe, Mr. Khan told *The Hindu* that the body had not been found useful in similar cases.

“We have the Manipur case regarding fake encounter where the Supreme Court observed that the NHRC was not up to the mark, using the term ‘toothless tiger’.”

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

The All Assam Minority Students’ Union (AAMSU) has asked the Centre to provide national identity cards to everyone included in the National Register of Citizens (NRC) published on August 31 last year.

The AAMSU said the government should immediately start the appeal process for the 19.6 lakh people excluded. A memorandum has been submitted to the Registrar-General of India and the Joint Secretary (Northeast), Ministry of Home Affairs.

Scholars condemn violence on campus

They demand an impartial inquiry

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

As many as 181 scholars, writers, activists and film-makers, including Romila Thapar, Prabhat Patnaik and Anand Patwardhan, have condemned the attack on students and teachers at the Jawaharlal Nehru University in Delhi on January 5 and expressed solidarity with them.

‘Unconscionable’
In a statement released on Tuesday, they demanded that the Registrar Pramod Kumar and the University Vice-Chancellor Mamidala Jagadesh Kumar take moral responsibility for their “failure to guarantee the safety of their students and faculty.” They said such a “total breakdown in campus safety is unconscionable.”

They demanded prompt medical aid to those injured and a fair and impartial inquiry into the events of Ja-

nuary 5 that will hold the perpetrators of the attack accountable.

The solidarity statement garnered 8,747 signatories, which included a wide range of scholars, writers, and members of civil society from all over the world.

The statement pointed out that masked goons (allegedly belonging to the ABVP) attacked unarmed JNU students and faculty “with rocks and rods while the police looked on.”

“At a time when protests all over the country are emphasising the need to protect the Indian Constitution and the basic principles of liberty, equality and the right to freedom of speech, the unprecedented attack on JNU students and faculty is unacceptable.”

The statement said: “We are forced to conclude that the administration and the police were complicit in facilitating the attack.”

CPI MP submits privilege notice against Amit Shah

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Binoy Viswam, Rajya Sabha member of the CPI, has submitted a privilege notice against Union Home Minister Amit Shah, accusing him of misleading Parliament and the people with his “contradictory statements” on the National Register of Citizens.

In a letter to the Rajya Sabha Secretary-General, Mr. Viswam highlighted the different statements made by Mr. Shah in Parliament and outside.

On November 20, the Minister, in a reply to a starred question in the House, said the NRC would be reimplemented in Assam when it was implemented across the country. At a rally in Ram Li-



Binoy Viswam

la Maidan, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the government had not yet taken a decision on a nationwide NRC.

Following Mr. Modi’s comment, Mr. Viswam said, the Home Minister changed his stance and in a television interview on December 24, he said, “There is no discussion on it right now.”

Iran threatens to ‘set ablaze’ the places ‘U.S. likes’

Revolutionary Guard chief Hossein Salami says they will target places backed by U.S. as crowds chant ‘Death to Israel’

ASSOCIATED PRESS
AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
TEHRAN/KERMAN

The leader of Iran’s Revolutionary Guard Corps threatened on Tuesday to “set ablaze” places supported by the U.S. over the killing of a top Iranian general in a U.S. airstrike last week, sparking cries from the crowd of supporters of “Death to Israel!” Hossein Salami issued the warning before a huge crowd gathered in a central square in Kerman, the hometown of General Qassem Soleimani, as they prepared to bury him.

Mourners in Kerman dressed in black carried posters bearing the image of Soleimani, a man whose slaying prompted Iran’s supreme leader to weep over his casket on Monday as a crowd said by police to be in the millions filled Tehran streets. Although there was no independent estimate, aerial footage and Associated Press journalists suggested a turnout of at least 1 million, and the throngs were visible on satellite images of Tehran taken on Monday.

The outpouring of grief was an unprecedented honour for a man viewed by Iranians as a national hero for his work leading the Guard’s expeditionary Quds Force.

The U.S. blames him for the killing of American troops in Iraq and accused him of plotting new attacks just before his death on Friday in a drone strike near Baghdad’s airport.

Soleimani also led forces in Syria backing President Bashar Assad in a long war, and he also served as the point man for Iranian proxies in countries like Iraq, Lebanon and Yemen.

Soleimani’s remains and those of the others killed in the airstrike were brought to

a central square in Kerman, a desert city surrounded by mountains that dates back to the days of the Silk Road.

Speaking in Kerman, Mr. Salami praised Soleimani’s exploits, describing him as essential to backing Palestinian groups, Yemen’s Houthi rebels and Shia militias in Iraq and Syria. As a martyr, Soleimani represented an even greater threat to Iran’s enemies, Mr. Salami said.

“We will take revenge. We will set ablaze where they like,” Mr. Salami said, drawing the cries of “Death to Israel!” Israel is a long-time regional foe of Iran.

13 plans

According to a report on Tuesday by the semi-official Tasnim news agency, Iran has worked up 13 sets of plans for revenge for Soleimani’s killing. The report quoted Ali Shamkhani, the Secretary of Iran’s Supreme National Security Council, as saying that even the weakest among them would be a “historic nightmare” for the U.S.

Soleimani will be buried later on Tuesday between the graves of Enayatollah Talebi-zadeh and Mohammad Hossein Yousef Elahi, two former Guard comrades. The two died in Operation Dawn 8 in Iran’s 1980s war with Iraq in which Soleimani also took part, a 1986 amphibious assault that cut Iraq off from the Gulf and led to the end of the bloody war that killed 1 million people.

Meanwhile, the EU, whose Foreign Ministers will hold emergency talks on the crisis on Friday, said it was in both Iran and Iraq’s interests to “take the path of sobriety and not of escalation”.

Saudi Arabia – an oil-rich U.S. ally seen as vulnerable to Iranian strikes – also appealed for calm after a “very dangerous” escalation.



In grief: Coffins of General Qassem Soleimani and others, who were killed in Iraq by a U.S. drone strike, surrounded by mourners during a funeral procession in the city of Kerman on Tuesday. • AP

Cultural sites won’t be hit, says Pentagon

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON

The Pentagon on Monday distanced itself from President Donald Trump’s assertions that he would bomb Iranian cultural sites despite international prohibitions on such attacks.

Defense Secretary Mark Esper said the U.S. will “follow the laws of armed conflict.” When asked if that ruled out targeting cultural sites, Mr. Esper said pointedly, “That’s the laws of armed conflict.”

Mr. Trump first raised the prospect of targeting cultural sites in a tweet on Saturday and reiterated that view to reporters the next day.

U.S. denies Iran’s Zarif visa to attend UN meet

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
TEHRAN

Iran’s Foreign Minister said on Tuesday he has been informed by UN chief Antonio Guterres that Washington has denied him a visa for a trip to UN headquarters in New York.

“What we know is that the U.S. State Secretary (Mike Pompeo), in a call to the Secretary General of the UN, said: ‘We did not have time to issue a visa for Mohammad Javad Zarif and we will not issue a visa’,” Mr. Zarif said.

“The Secretary General responded by saying that it is Iran’s right to take part in this session,” Tehran’s top diplomat said, quoted by semi-official news agency IS-

NA. So far there has been no official confirmation from Washington that it has rejected Mr. Zarif’s visa application.

His remarks came as Iran held funeral processions on Tuesday for one of its top military commanders killed in a U.S. drone strike in Iraq.

Mr. Zarif later took to Twitter, saying the rejection violated the terms of a 1947 agreement on the travel of representatives of UN members to and from the headquarters.

But he said “denying me a visa... pales in comparison to” US sanctions and threats, as well as the “cowardly assassination” of Iranian general Qasem Soleimani last week.

Germany, NATO move out soldiers

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BERLIN

Germany moved 35 soldiers serving in Iraq to neighboring Jordan and Kuwait on Tuesday, while NATO said it was also shifting some of its troops out of the country.

Germany has a small contingent of some 120 soldiers in Iraq, though the majority are not stationed in Taji and Baghdad but elsewhere.

The NATO has around 500 troops in Iraq – mostly from Canada, Spain and Turkey – who are helping to train and build Iraq’s security forces so they can combat the Islamic State group on their own.

TNA cautions Gotabaya against ‘majoritarianism’

‘President’s policy statement regressive’

MEERA SRINIVASAN
COLOMBO

Sri Lanka’s main Tamil party on Tuesday urged President Gotabaya Rajapaksa not to “regress into naked majoritarianism”, that in the past gave rise to a conflict, resulting in armed hostilities spanning over three decades.

Addressing Parliament, Jaffna district legislator and the Tamil National Alliance’s (TNA) spokesman M.A. Sumanthiran said the equal status of peoples belonging to different races, religions, languages and cultures is not dependent on their respective numerical strength. “This principle must be acknowledged if our democracy is to survive and indeed flourish, and not regress into naked majoritarianism.

Regrettably, in his address to Parliament on 3rd January 2020, the President has articulated such a regressive position,” he said, intervening in the debate on Mr. Rajapaksa’s inaugural address.

Referring to the Ceylon Citizenship Act of 1948, “a rank majoritarian act” that denied Indian origin Tamils citizenship, the Sinhala only Act of 1956, and the two republican “majoritarian” constitutions enacted in 1972 and 1978, Mr. Sumanthiran said it was only after the ‘Black July’, the brutal anti-Tamil pogrom in 1983, that India intervened to “turn the tide”.

13th Amendment

The subsequent constitutional amendment – popularly known as the 13th Amendment that came out of the Indo-Lanka Accord of 1987 – acknowledged diversity in the country and led to the creation of provincial councils to help minority communities exercise a



M.A. Sumanthiran

measure of self-governance. Referring to several past initiatives towards a political solution to the Tamil national question, the Tamil parliamentarian said PM Mahinda Rajapaksa assured India at least thrice – when he was President earlier – that he would “implement the 13th Amendment in full and build upon it so as to achieve meaningful devolution.

In his January 3 address, President Rajapaksa sought constitutional and electoral reform for “a strong executive and legislature” and sovereignty of the people. He pledged to “always defend” the unitary status of the country, and “protect and nurture the Buddha Sasana whilst safeguarding the right of all citizens to practice a religion of their choice.” He made no reference to war-affected Tamil community’s demand for power devolution.

However, welcoming President Rajapaksa’s proposal for a new Constitution, Mr. Sumanthiran said considerable drafting work had been done during the predecessor government’s tenure in office, with the full participation of all parties. “We still have some distance to go, and that is the direction we must continue in if the country is to prosper. Any deviation from that path will spell doom to us all,” he said.

ELSEWHERE



Arrest warrant in Japan for Carlos Ghosn’s wife

TOKYO Prosecutors in Japan on Tuesday obtained an arrest warrant for Carole Ghosn, wife of former Nissan chief Carlos Ghosn, who last month jumped bail and fled the country for Lebanon, where he was reunited with his wife. AFP

Putin meets Assad in surprise Syria visit

DAMASCUS Russian President Vladimir Putin met his Syrian counterpart Bashar al-Assad on Tuesday during a surprise visit to Damascus, his first since the start of the nearly nine-year war. AFP

Sanchez wins Parliament vote to remain Spain PM

Coalition with Podemos ends deadlock

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MADRID

Spain’s Parliament on Tuesday confirmed Socialist leader Pedro Sanchez by a razor-thin margin as Prime Minister for another term at the helm of the country’s first-ever coalition government since its return to democracy in the 1970s.

Mr. Sanchez, who has stayed on as a caretaker premier, won 167 votes in the 350-seat Assembly compared to 165 against, with a decisive 18 abstentions by Catalan and Basque separatist MPs.

He plans to form a minority coalition government with hard-left party Podemos this time around, in



Pedro Sanchez

what would be the first coalition government in Spain since the country returned to democracy following the death of longtime dictator Francisco Franco in 1975.

Spain has been without a proper government for most of the past year after two inconclusive polls.

ISI confiscates books on Zia ul Haq

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KARACHI

A Pakistani novelist and *New York Times* columnist said on Tuesday that security agents raided the offices of his publisher here and confiscated all the copies of his book about the country’s former military dictator Zia ul Haq.

Mohammad Hanif, whose much-acclaimed *A Case of Exploding Mangoes* is a parody about the former dictator killed in a plane crash in 1988, blamed the Pakistani spy agency, the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), for the raid. However, an ISI official described Mr. Hanif’s claim as a cheap attempt to gain popularity.

Austria’s Kurz returns as world’s youngest govt. head

He is heading a coalition govt. with the Green Party

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
VIENNA

The leader of Austria’s conservatives Sebastian Kurz was sworn in on Tuesday as the world’s youngest democratically elected leader, at the head of a coalition with the Greens following the collapse of his previous alliance with the far-right.

Vowing to “protect the climate and the borders”, the 33-year-old has become Chancellor of the Alpine country’s first government to include the Greens, an arrangement called “exotic” and “unlikely” by Austrian media.

Speaking at a handover



Sebastian Kurz

ceremony with his predecessor Brigitte Bierlein, Mr. Kurz said it was “good to be able to continue working for Austria” and promised: “We will strive every day to give our best.”

Weinstein hit with new sex assault charge

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
NEW YORK

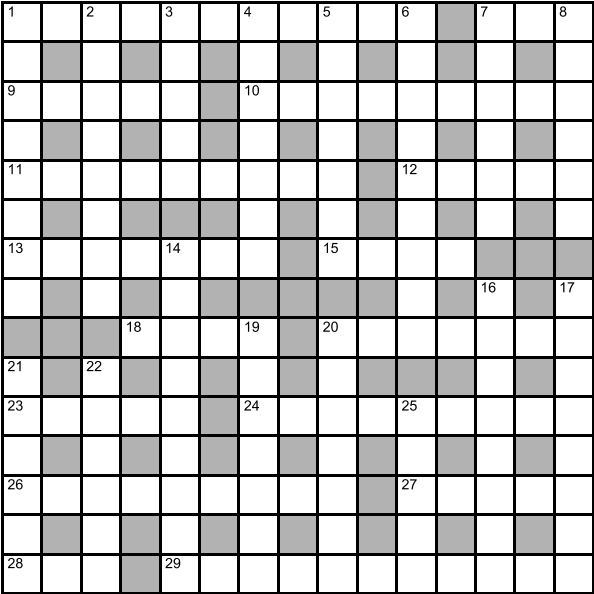
Harvey Weinstein was hit with new sex crimes charges in Los Angeles on Monday just as his high-profile trial in a separate case opened in New York, kicking off proceedings key to the #MeToo movement.

The case in California stems from a two-year probe into allegations from several women that the disgraced Hollywood mogul assaulted them in Los Angeles and Beverly Hills.

According to the chargesheet, Weinstein allegedly went to a Los Angeles hotel on February 18, 2013 and raped a woman after pushing his way into her room.

THE HINDU CROSSWORD 12827

Log on to crossword.thehindu.com for more puzzles



To play an interactive version of this crossword online, scan the QR code

■ ACROSS

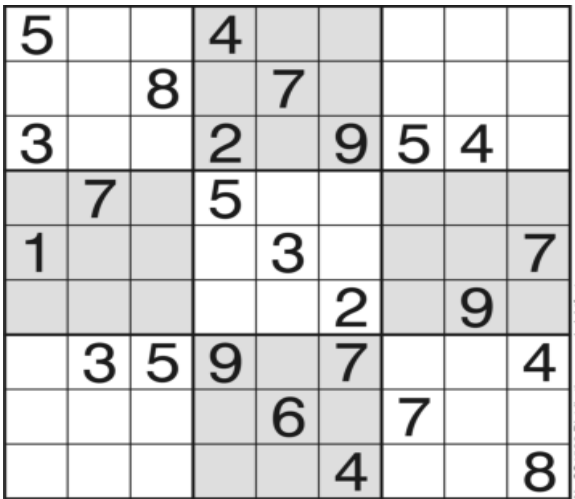
- 1 Can be caught behind wicket, in short (5,6)
- 7 James Bond, perhaps gets essential information (3)
- 9 Girl’s husband is from Dublin (5)
- 10 Twitter has made changes – it’s a monotonous task (9)
- 11 Wild shrubs over time grow in wilderness (9)

- 12 Large boat, slow in movement (5)
- 13 Outstanding round, green right away (7)
- 15 Once past, the odds go with cattle (4)
- 18 One Moslem leader following another (4)
- 20 Church worker finds damp patch (7)
- 23 Crude can rise and suddenly slip initially (5)
- 24 Julius Caesar didn’t know how to manage or placate her (9)
- 26 Sailor on board, used by the cook (9)
- 27 Market place empty in Indian city (5)
- 28 Chinese cat goes for cock, perhaps (3)
- 29 All remedies work in Ireland (7,4)
- DOWN
- 1 Said to be conceited Caledonian on the wall panel (8)
- 2 Tight nighties – what do you call them? (8)

(set by Arden)

- 3 He breaks the bar – hauled up to halfway house (5)
- 4 Long before Julius Caesar’s last words, crew oddly leaves (7)
- 5 Hawking – quietly he kept gun outside (7)
- 6 With wife lived at a resort, it’s a bore (5,4)
- 7 It stops blood, a complaint (6)
- 8 Hold light to cover lines on both sides (6)
- 14 Block a row with some fancy metalwork (9)
- 16 Groups start fighting, fighting’s endless (8)
- 17 State law to check expensive drug (8)
- 19 Club sandwiches – butter makes a pattern (7)
- 20 View from top to bottom, reading in between lines (7)
- 21 Put a lid on booze (6)
- 22 Kid under wheels of an acid carrier (6)
- 25 Material quietly put face up (5)

SUDOKU



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to puzzle 12826

S	A	D	A	L	M	I	T	A	R
B	R	I	N	S	C	I	M	I	T
U	R	N	T	M	S	L	C		
D	E	S	P	A	I	R	B	U	R
D	T	M	I	A	C	A			
H	A	R	P	O	O	N	E	R	O
A	I	G	Z	L					
S	P	A	N	D	E	M	O	N	I
P	L	U	M	E	T	E	N	D	O
A	N	I	T	E	N	D	O	R	S
T	H	I	M	B	L	E	A	L	B
E	S	I	R	Y	L	A	I		
C	O	M	A	T	O	S	E	I	N
N			S	R	N	E			

Solution to yesterday’s Sudoku

5	3	2	6	9	1	8	4	7
9	7	6	4	8	3	2	1	5
8	1	4	2	7	5	9	3	6
1	2	3	8	5	9	6	7	4
7	6	8	1	2	4	5	9	3
4	5	9	7	3	6	1	8	2
6	9	7	3	1	2	4	5	8
3	4	5	9	6	8	7	2	1
2	8	1	5	4	7	3	6	9

FAITH

Commitment to dharma

The dictum of the sastras, “Satyam Vada, Dharmam Chara,” spells the fundamental rule for ethical and moral living and is applicable to all beings at all times. One who always speaks the truth and follows the path of righteousness is sure to find much inner peace and happiness though it might not be the kind of happiness that is dependent on material prosperity and a life of comfort, pointed out Sri B. Damadhara Dikshitar in a discourse.

In the Mahabharata, when the Pandavas begin their exile, on many occasions, Draupadi and Bheema often feel anger and frustration at their fate. They go to the extent of blaming Yudhishtira for the way he has handled the game of dice that has resulted in this life of hardship for all of them. Is it not a clear case of blatant cheating that has pushed them to a corner? Hence she cannot help questioning the dharma which is supposed to protect them.

Duryodhana who constantly flouts dharma is happy in his kingdom and leads a comfortable life while their lot is to suffer. But, as far as Yudhishtira is concerned he does not view what has happened as an unfortunate event. In his inner self he is happy and at peace with himself. He understands that fluctuations in fortune are very much the essence of life. His very strength is his commitment to honesty and truth and he has upheld dharma and not swerved from it at any cost. He tells Draupadi that ends can never justify the means. When Rama is denied the throne and also faces exile, the impact of the rude shock hits all who find it most unfair to Him. But Rama, who is committed to dharma, accepts it with remarkable equanimity. In contrast, Ravana, with all his atrocities leads a life of prosperity. But it is ultimately the order of dharma that is finally established.

Ironing out differences between the generations, as a new decade rolls on

How can inter-generational collaboration be achieved at the workplace of the 2020s? Find out what the groups in question may have to say about this

PRINCE FREDERICK

Generations are not planets swirling around in their separate orbits. They intersect, influence and change each other's course.

An organisation's health depends on how various generations synergise their strengths. To achieve this end, every generation should know every other for what it is, and this may require sifting facts from assumptions.

The younger generations, which consist of the millennials and generation Z, have to be particularly freed of the prism of assumptions through which they are often seen. Some of these assumptions have already ossified into unhelpful beliefs.

So, let them speak for themselves, launching into certain unflattering assumptions about them.

The Voice of the Younger Generations

Assumption #1: “They are rolling stones”

While it is indeed true that we want to try out different roles, and define meaning largely by new learnings and experiences, we would want job-hopping to happen on our terms. In other words, we would want the job market to be stable, and we should be in a position to choose and leave organisations and not the other way around. And, as regards leaving organisations, contrary to popular belief, we are not internally programmed to fly the organisational nest, every two or three years. Listen to what a millennial-professional has to say about this. “Millennials and generation Z would not want to leave an organisation that is growing, offers stability, and provides learning opportunities,” says Shraddha Puri, corporate head, human resources, Hitachi Systems Micro Clinic.

Assumption #2: “They don't value hierarchy”

The desire to have flatter organisations is born out of the necessity of having to meet challenges posed by changing market realities. Continual changes and uncertainties in the business environment require organisations to be leaner and swifter, ensuring greater flexibility in reporting and decision-making systems. The reality of distributed teams is also promoting such flexibility. For the older generations – baby boomers and generation X –



ILLUSTRATION: SREEJITH RAVIKUMAR

organisational structures must be looking a lot flatter than they did only a couple of decades ago. It is a structural shift that these generation may be getting accustomed to. In contrast, millennials and generation Z are born into such a corporate world, and are therefore at home functioning in structures that have only a few hierarchical markers. “Millennials respect hierarchy. It is important to have a hierarchical structure. Without that, there can't be learning. It promotes progress, as it provides employees with the motivation to reach the next level. Millennials don't mind hierarchical structures, but they would want the organisation to be flat in its style of functioning,” says Shraddha.

Assumption #3: “They see the world in pixels”

The majority of us do have a vibrant online-social life. It is particularly true of many Gen-Zs, the smart-phone generation. However, we are not blind to what we are missing out on, by staying online longer than we should, and are often remorseful about the time wasted in this manner. A few findings from The Deloitte Global Millennial Survey 2019, which quizzed “3,416 millennials

from 42 countries, and 3,009 Gen-Zs from 10 countries”, put our views on this question in perspective. While showing that 71 percent of the millennials viewed social media in a positive light, the Deloitte survey brought out the nuances that form the youngsters’ assessment about being digital and connected. Sixty-four percent of the millennials said cutting down screen time would lead to benefits on the health front, as it would mean taking up outdoor activities. The Survey further discovered that four out of every 10 Millennial-respondents wished they could turn their back on social media.

As the seniors in the midst, the older generations – the baby boomers and generation X – would make two resolutions that would promote inter-generational collaboration at the workplace.

The Voice of the Older Generations

Resolution #1 “We will focus on the similarities”

Essentially, all generations are similar, in that they make the most of given circumstances, and make the necessary adaptations whenever re-

quired. Gen-Z is called the YouTube generation, and together with the millennials, they are called “the DIY generation”. The phenomenal rise of information technology is making it possible for people to pick up certain skills, often with minimal guidance. As digital natives, they may have it in their DNA to make optimum use of this situation. Having said that, the older generations can't be far behind in adoption of new technologies. In fact, it is a world we have created, for better or for worse, that younger generations are born into. For example, the do-it-yourself culture has existed, in varying forms and degrees, earlier. The world of music provides a ready example: In the 1980s, music bands were able to circumvent the elaborate and difficult process of music production by making copies of their songs and albums through do-it-yourself cassette-making technology. In other words, there is a lot in common than we often believe, and generations adapt to changing situations. Here is a generation-Xer who explains this. Kiruba Shankar, social media entrepreneur and digital-marketing professor, says, “Adapting to something that will enable

one to work smarter and live better is a very human thing to do. With Internet connectivity spreading across the globe, the geographical relevance of doing work in one place has become irrelevant. Sixty percent of the people at the consulting firm I run don't come to work; they remote-work. This way, as an employer, I am able to get people with specialised skills, from other parts of the country and even abroad. Born in the 1970s, I am not a digital native, but it is a world I have adapted to, and would not want to trade for anything else. And, I certainly would not want to set the clock back.”

Resolution #2: “We will try to understand their unique needs”

We believe there should be an effort to understand the younger generations, but without bringing them under undue scrutiny. Ganesh Chella, who specialises in executive coaching and, was born in the early 1960s, and therefore belongs to the younger section of baby-boomers, thinks millennials are “being treated like laboratory specimens. It has been going on for a decade.” Ganesh explains: “There is an undeniable need to have a proper understanding of younger generations, because they represent the future and therefore define the context. For its survival and success, every organisation has to adapt to the future. However, it has realised that the context younger generations help create, defines the older generations too,” says Ganesh. “At the end of the day, it is about creating an organisational culture that will be responsive to the unique needs of all generations, and ties them together as a successful unit.” It should be a culture that would allow every generation to easily adapt to systems that are put in place for the larger good.

A ‘joint pact’ between baby boomers and millennials

There is great scope for knowledge transfer between the two sides

LIFFY THOMAS

By virtue of having arrived early on the scene, the baby-boomers have a distinct advantage. Time should be able to give them a greater insight into the inter-generational workplace dynamics. Jairam N. Menon, 65, is serving his third extension, because a leading corporate he is employed with, wants to put this advantage to use.

“It's not usual for the company to give extensions but mine was an exception,” says Menon, who has been asked to play a multi-generational mentoring role, besides the main mandate, which is about helping write the company's history.

At 64, Lt. Col. John Chenetra, who has worked with many corporates since his retirement, says baby-boomers, and the younger generations, particularly the ones that have started entering the workforce, fit in with each other, like a dovetail joint.

Chenetra, who is currently chief operating officer at Verifacts Services Pvt. Ltd., explains that an opportunity for two-way mentoring is readily present. In the mad hurry to learn hard tech skills to stay relevant, employees from the younger generations usually tend not to lay equal emphasis on learning life skills. Having baby-boomers in their midst can ensure the right balance. In the tech-wired world, there will always be something that millennials and generation Z can teach baby boomers

S. Srikrishnan moved to academia after two decades in industry, and is now senior professor business analytics at Loyola Institute of Business Administration. He says that with some humility, learning can move both ways.

“We are a learning company, and it's not uni-directional. So even as we handhold, we veterans learn as much, if not more from the youngsters as they are learning from us,” says Menon.

Baby boomers say millennials make great teams to work with provided one shows a lot of patience in understanding their unique needs.

“You need to win their respect and demonstrate that,” says Menon.



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Applications are invited from Indian citizens for recruitment of Junior Associates (Customer Support & Sales) in Clerical Cadre in SBI.

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For vacancy details, eligibility criteria, terms & conditions and online application, please visit Bank's website <https://bank.sbi/careers> OR <https://www.sbi.co.in/careers> – **Latest Announcement/Current Openings** Candidates can register their application through the link available therein.

- Online registration of application and payment of fee: from 03.01.2020 to 26.01.2020
- Date of online Preliminary Test (Tentative): Various dates in February 2020 / March 2020
- Date of online Main Exam (Tentative): 19.04.2020

Place: Mumbai
Date: 03.01.2020

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How to apply: Interested candidates can apply **online** through the link available on <https://www.banksboardbureau.org.in> under the "Vacancies" tab **OR** directly at <https://www.research.net/r/mdceoipbb>

Last date of application: 5:00 pm on January 31, 2020

Note: Further details including corrigendum, if any, shall be published only on the Bureau's website.

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INDICATIVE ADDENDUM

Notification Ref.: DMRC/HR/Rectt./I/2019

The mandatory requirement of minimum two years post-qualification work experience for the various posts, as advertised in the above referred Notification, published in the Employment News, on 14.12.2019, has been relaxed, with suitable modification in upper age limit criteria. The last date to apply online, has also been extended to 20.01.2020 (11.59 PM).

Interested candidates may visit the Career section of the DMRC Website: www.delhimetrorail.com/career.aspx, for the detailed Addendum.

Advertisement No. : DMRC/857/2020

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EMPLOYMENT NOTIFICATIONS

Chennai Metro Rail Limited entrusted with the implementation of Chennai Metro Rail Project requires efficient, experienced and competent persons for the under mentioned posts on contract.

S. No.	Name of the Post	Employment Notification No.	Pay	Max. Age Limit (in Yrs.)	Min. Exp. (in Yrs)
1	Director (Systems & Operations)	CMRL-HR-01-2020	Rs.1,80,000 – 3,40,000 (IDA Pay Scale)	58	25
2	Structural Design & Planning Expert	CMRL-HR-02-2020	Consolidated Pay based on Relevant Experience and Last Pay Drawn	56	20
3	Deputy General Manager (Project Planning)	CMRL-HR-03-2020		40	10
4	Site Architect	CMRL-HR-04-2020	Rs.25,000 to Rs.30,000 (Consolidated Pay)	28	3

- Applications are to be submitted for the posts mentioned from S.No.1 to 3 and the last date of receipt of applications is 07-02-2020.
- Walk-in-interview will be conducted on 18-01-2020 for the post mentioned at S.No. 4.
- Age, Qualification and Experience stipulated above should be as on 08-01-2020. Age may be relaxed for deserving and experienced candidates for the posts mentioned at S.No.2 to 4.
- Apart from the consolidated pay, Benefits like medical, accident insurance and increment will be extended.
- For details regarding qualification, experience, general conditions, application format etc., please refer the detailed employment notification mentioned against each post in CMRL website <http://chennai-metrorail.org>.

DIPR/ 37 /Display/2020

Chief General Manager (HR).

CM
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DIVYA KALA BHAVANI

It is 12.30 a.m. in Los Angeles when Doug Jones sits down for a Skype interview with us. Despite being in between shoots for the new season of *Star Trek: Discovery*, he has the energy of a lithe teenager. It is a little jarring seeing the actor in his ‘sans prosthetics state’; the world is used to seeing him with frayed gills, distorted eyeballs or alien anatomies. But it is a comfort that throughout the interview, he speaks just as much with his hands as he does with his face.

The 59-year-old actor is quite literally, ‘the most famous actor you have never seen’, with major star-

The man behind the MASK

Touted as ‘the most famous actor you have never seen’, Doug Jones shines in the otherworldly side of Hollywood, having starred in *The Shape Of Water*, *Pan’s Labyrinth* and the series *Star Trek: Discovery*

dating, because this is a franchise with so much legacy, that I didn’t want to get this wrong,” he starts, “I wanted to make sure this could help create a new species of alien that would be everything the writers hoped for: charming, witty, smart and with his own full plate. Saru is a very emotional being as well as logical.”

Coming up with Saru’s physique was extremely fulfilling for Doug, who wanted Saru to be different from any other character he has played – a big challenge, given he has worked in the sci-fi world for over 30 years. “When I saw the first designs and saw those hoof boots – his feet actually move like those of an antelope – and when I put those shoes on for the first time, it changed my posture and I felt like I was walking around like a super-model and my arms started naturally flowing behind me.”

On what we can expect for season 3, Doug says, “At the end of season two, we jumped into the future and I think [the production team] has let it out that we go about 900 or 1,000 years into the future, so the big mystery is ‘what are we gon-



na find there?’ and, as far as my future’s future goes, I am sitting in the commander’s chair when we make that jump.”

Beguiled by Guillermo

The actor’s physicality continues to place him as a real Hollywood proponent in a time VFX can only do so much. And this understanding of character embodiment has made Doug a ‘director’s actor’ if his years-long collaboration with Guillermo del Toro is anything to go by.

In 2018, *The Shape Of Water* won Academy Awards, including for Best Director and Best Picture. The film marks yet another stepping stone in Doug and Guillermo del

Toro’s evolving relationship as collaborators and friends. The two met in 1997 on *Mimic* on which Doug only worked three days as a fill-in bug creature. “He remembered me; five years later, we did the first *Hellboy* movie where I played Abe Sapien, a supporting character... but we bonded more during that film and had established a non-verbal dialogue between the two of us; very little has to be said when he’s directing me. That is when he quickly became my favourite director. He is someone who understands all of his actors, and knows what buttons to push.”

Doug describes doing an encompassing one-camera shot for *Hellboy*, in which he had to deal with three different props. “I tried to go through the action of picking up each prop and dealing with it and doing what I had to do,” he starts laughing as he continues, “and Guillermo says, ‘God, Dougie, you’re boring me to death!’ so that’s all I had to hear.”

But it was *Pan’s Labyrinth* which marked a turning point in their relationship. “In the film industry, people talk about that relationship of trust between the two of us where I would do anything the man says and he knows that [laughs] and he trusts me. For him to trust me with a role like The Fawn and The Pale Man in this passion project for him – he hardly had any budget to make it and he had to just pull favours from people – but we all knew we had a piece of art on our hands. That said, to trust me with that was extraordinary, and I even got on that ride with him through awards season that year: the Golden Globes, the BAFTAs and the Oscars.”

Moving forward, Doug finds himself drawn to more humanesque roles; he expresses an unconventional dream role too.

“I would love to be in a Hallmark Christmas movie, playing the dad offering his daughter some sage advice while wearing an ugly Christmas sweater,” he laughs.

The second season of Star Trek: Discovery currently airs on Zee Cafe; all episodes on Netflix. Hellboy II: The Golden Army and Pan’s Labyrinth are on Netflix

SHOWCASE 17

PEOPLE

The rise of Ritviz

Millions of YouTube views, a couple of film projects... his growth has been rapid



The advent of high-speed Internet and streaming platforms over the last decade has changed the indie music scene in the country. It significantly reduced the cost of production and marketing. After receiving this nourishment from technology, independent music has spawned some sensational talent. EDM and hip-hop composer Ritviz Srivastava, 23, from Pune, is one such.

The number of YouTube views of his latest song is a good measure of his popularity. ‘Liggi’, released on December 22, has been watched over 3.6 million times. Last November, Ritviz was a part of the line-up for the OnePlus Music Festival in Mumbai, with international pop sensations Katy Perry and Dua Lipa, and National Award-winning composer Amit Trivedi. On Instagram, his follower-count is 109k; on YouTube it is 473k.

Ritviz acknowledges the fortune of being an independent musician in the digital era. “The platform for an indie musician now is immense. You can afford to get an audience to follow you and make them understand what your music is all about.” Reaching too many people in a short span has a few catches, though. One: there is pressure to hasten one’s work. “For instance, I took nine months after ‘Udd Gaye’ [Ritviz’s most viewed song on YouTube]. And, people kept asking about the release of the next one.” Two: “The audience can build an image of you very quickly.”

Ritviz trained in Hindustani classical music. At five, his mother, a music teacher, started teaching him Khyal, a genre of classical singing. At 10, he learnt Dhrupad (another major style) under Pandit Uday Bhawalkar. When he was 13, he started electronic music production. Even in his second EP, *Yuv*, one can spot this classical-EDM hybrid.

“My content, the soul of my songs, is very Indian. But the way I present it is in a Western format,” he says. This fusion, Ritviz says, was not planned. “It happened organically. This influence [of EDM] had taken place early on. Growing up, I used to listen to a lot of VH1. I was absorbing all the music that I was hearing. And, at one point, I was trying to put them together.”

At the moment, Ritviz is working on two Bollywood film projects. “I have always wanted to explore the area of films,” he says. But this is an area that would affect his independence. Film music, sometimes, asks the artiste to work within a boundary. For Ritviz, who dislikes restrictions, this will be a test. He says it depends on the collaborations. “I would like to get a brief of what the movie is about. And, I would let my mind wander. If a director says he wants very specific things, I won’t be the best fit.”

PRAVEEN SUDEVAN

PLACES

Milan times



Danbro, a bakery and cafe by two Italian chefs, Davide Quaglini and Carlos, in collaboration with pastry chef Anjali Mohan, is now open in Kailash Colony. The chefs promise to bring authentic European flavours to us in Delhi. Muffins, tarts, brownies, cupcakes, spaghetti bowls, pizzas, all form a part of the menu. There’s place to sit and eat, and a variety of breads – Ciabatta, Baguette, Chia seed, multigrain bread, focaccia – to pick from, and a keto menu as well.

At A-20 Kailash Colony, upward of ₹90

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FOOD REVIEW

Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde

NAVAL SATARAWALA CHOPRA

Nege & Ju, has a unique restaurant concept: By day it’s a stylish European bistro and at night it transforms into a slick Asian food inspired den. They change not just the menu but everything between lunch and dinner, the art, the tables, the chairs, even the entrance. I am already calling this one the hottest restaurant openings of 2020.

At the helm of the kitchen is Ravi Kant Shukla, a chef who I am sure will be talked about a lot, but for now he is the most talkative chef in town! He and his team manage to switch gears between services like experienced race car drivers – it is no mean feat to cater to completely different cuisines and do so authentically from the same kitchen – but they pull it off with aplomb.

Nege & Ju’s bar is also a great revelation. Choose between cocktail stools and a lovely open air patio at the back, a delightful place to soak in the sun. Again, diffe-

Delhi’s latest ‘it’ spot, European by day, Asian by night



rent cocktail lists at lunch (try the Paloma, a mezcal based drink) and dinner (the Risky Sour is delicious; I wanted



The finishing touch (Above) Chef Ravi Kant Shukla, (left) the food, (right) the outdoor seating •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

a spoon to eat it). The bartenders make an effort to recommend drinks to suit your palate.

The vibe: By day, it has that Williamsburg feel, up-market, trendy. Off-white walls, European artwork, and lilting swing music. The indistinct hum of the chatter coasting under the music is

just perfect for a place sure to soon be a haunt for ladies that lunch.

By night, the alter ego, Ju, takes over, and the transformation is astounding. Dark, sexy, velvety and mysterious, making you desirous to explore the food. The edgy DJ music and mood lighting too play a crucial role in



enhancing the experience of the space.

Do try: By day, I would recommend the Allium Mousse Tart, which is a clever interpretation of various root vegetables foamed into a tart, served with the juiciest Peruvian white asparagus and crispy garlic.

Also a winner was the Truffle Bianco Pizza - simple to look at, but a mouthwatering combination of provolone, Parmesan, mozzarella and Scamorza, and truffle oil. The lobster from their Grills section was excellent – perfectly cooked, succulent, served in the shell. It packed a smoky punch.

At night, we started with the crunchy spicy okra, served with a yuzu tofu foam dip - a clever, well balanced dish. What blew us away was the Avocado and Cured Papaya Carpaccio, which was a dance of crunch and creami-

ness – unlikely bedfellows, but a match made in heaven.

The Cantonese Duck Pancakes were juicy and comforting. We enjoyed the Truffle Perigord Roll (veg) with black rice that had a pop of honey mustard, a modern sushi – not necessarily for the purists, but nevertheless delicious. Among the mains, the Nasu Aka Miso (diced miso aubergine) and Barley Chicken served with Thai Curry Sauce, stood out.

Skip: At lunch, they serve avocado three ways, and I chose the version with crab. Whilst the avocado serving itself was generous and good, a restaurant of this calibre shouldn’t be serving shredded crab sticks with the dish. Poached fresh crab may have elevated it.

At dinner, I’d skip the Yellowtail Carpaccio, which was flaccid and the wrong temperature. The desserts failed to impress – a lot of effort must have gone into them, but none of them would I order again.

Go with: A first date at lunch, someone you want to impress at dinner; otherwise with your posse.

Spacebar: 75 covers over 2,500sq feet

How much: ₹4,000 for two sans cocktails.

Getting there: Nege & Ju, 9 and 10 Lodhi Market, next to Lodhi Sports; do not follow Google Maps.

5 EVENTS WORTH YOUR WHILE



CONCERT

Carnatic music

IHC is hosting Laya Madhuran, a *talavadhya* concert based on a rare 72 *melakarta thala* that will be presented by percussion expert T. R. Dhandapani, this evening. It will be followed by a fusion concert *Swara Sangamam*, featuring vocalists and percussion instrumentalists from both Hindustani and Carnatic styles.
VENUE: Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre
TIME: 7 p.m.



F&B

Kebab special

Singh Sahib Restaurant, an eatery serving North Indian cuisine in Eros Hotel has launched a kebab menu with rum. On till 20th January, it offers kebabs such as Banjara Tandoori Kulkad, Peshawari Prawns, Kasoori Machhi, Anjeer Paneer Tikka, Peanut Chilli Kebab, Jaitooni Subz Seekh, Kumbh ki Galouti, and more.
VENUE: Eros Hotel - New Delhi, Nehru Place
TIME: 12 noon-3 p.m.; 7-11:30 p.m.



EXHIBITION

Sculpture

An ongoing solo show titled, Shelter, by Kolkata-based artist Pintu Sikder showcases his latest work on sculptures. Using the medium of textured sheets with brass nuts to show surfaces impacted by modernisation, Sikder explores the tussle between cultivation and industrialisation on limited land resources.
VENUE: Triveni Kala Sangam, Mandi House
TIME: 11 a.m. - 8 p.m.



GIG

Starika & Friends live

The Piano Man, Gurugram, is hosting Starika & Friends, a collaboration of a few seasoned musicians from Delhi, tonight. The band comprising Starika on lead vocals, Sohaib Ahmed on the guitar, and Fidel Dely on the drums. Starika covers songs of multiple genres, ranging from RnB, Soul & Blues to Rock and Metal.
VENUE: 32nd avenue, Sector 15 Part 2
TIME: 9 p.m. - 11:55 p.m.



FILM

Documentary on Gandhiji

Ahimsa: Gandhi – The Power of the Powerless, an English documentary will be screened this evening. Directed by filmmaker Ramesh Sharma, the film documents the impact of the Gandhian philosophy of non-violence worldwide, and features interviews with world renowned scholars, biographers and civil rights activists.
VENUE: C.D. Deshmukh Auditorium, IIC
TIME: 6 p.m.



NIKHIL BHATIA

What you see here is the big daddy of Toyota MPVs. It's called the Vellfire and – at nearly 5m long, 1.85m wide and 1.9m tall – it is an MPV so large it makes the Innova Crysta look positively mid-sized. The Vellfire is a mountain of an MPV, but you can make what you want of the way it looks. As with all other MPVs, what really matters is what it is like on the inside.

The moment the powered sliding rear doors open, you are greeted by corridor levels of space between the front and middle-row seats – and that is with the seats in their regular settings. It is a bit of a step up into the Vellfire, but the journey in is well worth it. The middle row is made up of two XXL-sized captain seats that seem more like La-Z-Boy recliners than regular seats. Finished in cushy, high-grade leather, they offer excellent support all around and get a huge range of adjustments. A section of the armrest flips open to reveal a control panel for all manner of seat settings, from backrest angle to the angle and length of the powered leg rests to seat heating and cooling; there is no massage function though. Those seated on the left can even move the co-driver seat

forward (via buttons on said seat) for more space. At full extension, the middle seats make for a great place to unwind after a long day at the office.

The large windows add to the feeling of space, and what is good is that they come with full-length sun blinds. Other features of note include a second-row sunroof, 16-colour mood lighting and dedicated climate control for the rear cabin. However, there are some curious omissions in our test car, like the lack of any charging points at the back, as well as a rear-

SPECIFICATIONS

L/W/H: 4935/1850/1895mm

WHEELBASE: 3000mm

GROUND CLEARANCE: 165mm

ENGINE: 4-cyl, 2493cc, petrol

POWER: 152hp at 5700rpm

TORQUE: 206Nm at 4400-4800rpm

ELECTRIC MOTOR POWER (F/R): 143hp/68hp

ELECTRIC MOTOR TORQUE (F/R): 270Nm/139Nm

COMBINED OUTPUT: 197hp

GEARBOX: e-CVT

Room enough to spare

The Toyota Vellfire is a mountain of an MPV that does not fit the typical description of a luxury vehicle



Value for money It could just be the luxury car you didn't know you wanted ■ SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

seat entertainment unit, which is something you would just expect to be there. And not to be picky, but the retractable trays for the middle-row seats are quite small, though the fold-out cupholders do work well.

Moving to the third row, the seating position is comfy, and given the abundance of cabin room, it is immensely easy to reach a knee-room compromise with the middle-row passengers. There is no shortage of head and shoulder room either, and the seats are wide enough for three, though the centre split – they are split folding seats – can be bothersome to a middle occupant. Reclining backrests, fold-down armrests, dedicated AC vents and sunblinds for the rear windows just make it more welcoming. Access though isn't the easiest – the aperture is quite small despite the MPV's size – but even so the third-row experience is among the best in the business. Luggage room too isn't an issue. The third row seats can be slid forward, or dropped for-

ward and flipped to the sides – Innova style – to make more room. A low loading lip and powered tailgate make it easy to load luggage.

Those seated up front have it rather good too. The seats are big on comfort, get heating and cooling, and, as an added plus, the front passenger seat comes with a powered leg rest too. Seat memory, an easy access system (it automatically moves the seat backwards for ease of entry) and a heated steering help make the driver's life easier. There is also lots of space for small items.

But for all its gizmos and practicality, the Vellfire's interior still feels like a Toyota interior. The dashboard is easy to navigate and there is generous use of soft-touch materials, but many of the buttons feel plasticky and some even look dated. The after-market touchscreen infotainment system doesn't do it any favours either.

For an MPV as large as the Vellfire is, it is surprisingly easy to drive. The high seating and large glass area provide a great view, and what also helps break the ice is the surprisingly light steering. It is easy to place the Vellfire and even U-turns don't require any special effort.

The powertrain's easygoing nature also helps. The Vellfire makes use of a hybrid powertrain that comprises a 150hp, 2.5-litre petrol engine and a pair of electric motors – one

paired with the engine and the second to the rear axle, adding in power when required – making it an all-wheel-drive MPV. Combined power is rated at 197hp. The large Toyota builds speed with grace and manages to mask its two-tonne-plus bulk well. It is quite at ease with a full house and it is also possible to drive the Vellfire in pure EV mode for short distances; this, however, requires gentle inputs on the accelerator or the engine will kick in. Of the other things, the Vellfire rides a bit firmer than you would like and noise insulation isn't at par with, say, a German luxury car either. The question is, would you consider the Vellfire over a like-priced luxury SUV or sedan? You see, the Vellfire will come to India as a full import this year, which means prices will be in the range of ₹85-90 lakh (estimated, ex-showroom).

Image-conscious buyers will scoff at the idea of spending big on an MPV (let alone one from Toyota), and broadly speaking, the Vellfire is not the sort of vehicle that fits the typical description of a luxury vehicle. However, those who want space and comfort above all else, and also value the peace of mind that comes with buying a Toyota, will actually find a great match in the Vellfire. If anything, it is at least worth a good look. For all you know, it could just be the luxury car you did not know you wanted.

POOCH CAFE



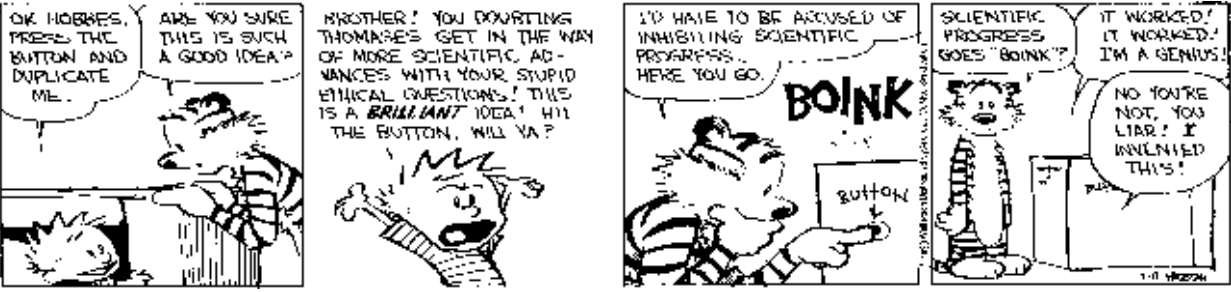
PEANUTS



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



CALVIN AND HOBBS



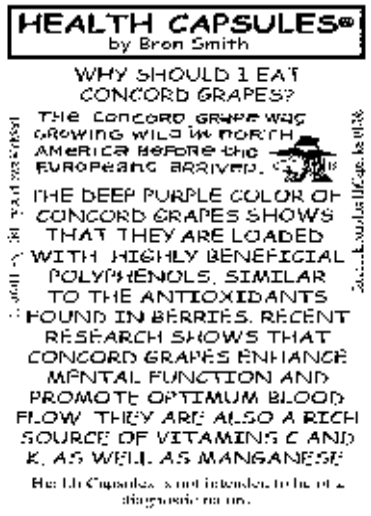
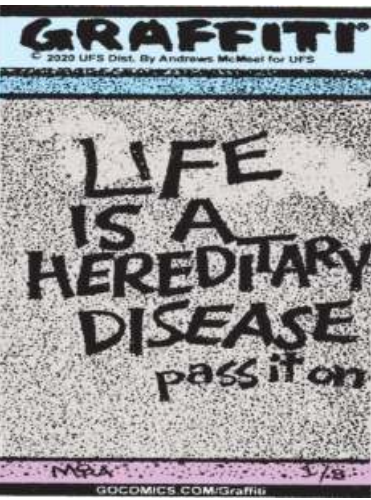
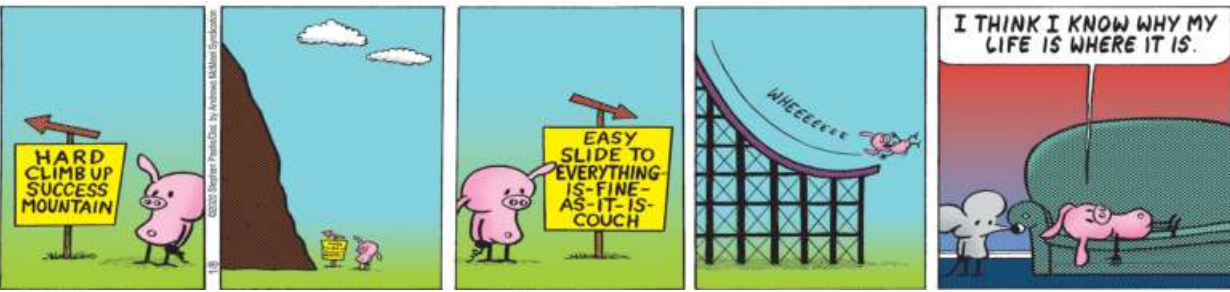
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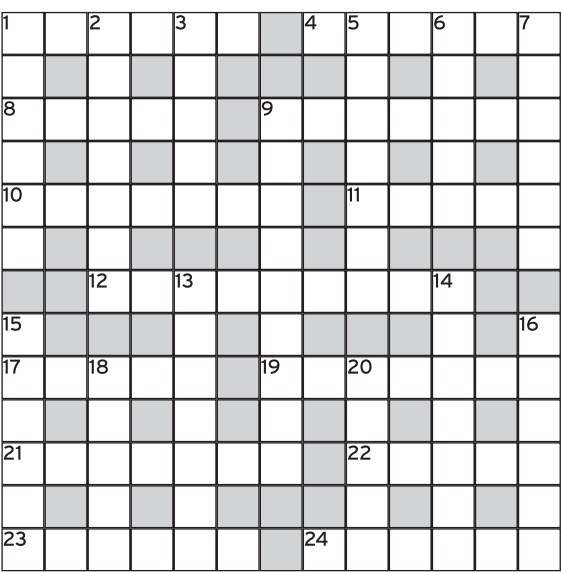
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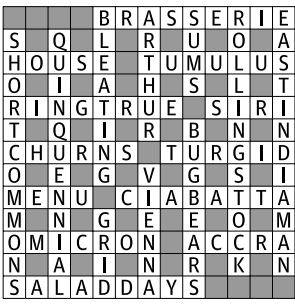
THE GUARDIAN QUICK CROSSWORD-13271



To play The Guardian Quick Crossword, The Hindu Cryptic crossword, Sudoku & other puzzles online, scan the QR code.

- 9 Grimace (4,1,4)
- 13 Handguns (7)
- 14 Insulation – failing to keep up (7)
- 15 Scratched (6)
- 16 Mildly obscene (6)
- 18 Less (5)
- 20 Soothsayer (5)

- Across
 - 1 Rest (6)
 - 4 Academy awards (6)
 - 8 Band of people involved in some activity (5)
 - 9 Card game (7)
 - 10 Timorous (7)
 - 11 Unconcealed (5)
 - 12 Assessment (9)
 - 17 Arms and legs (5)
 - 19 Mercury alloy (7)
 - 21 Charming (7)
- Down
 - 22 Consciousness of one's wrongdoing (5)
 - 23 Cease (6)
 - 24 Dazed (6)
- Down
 - 1 Swindle (3-3)
 - 2 Sieved tomato purée (7)
 - 3 Projecting underwater ridge (5)
 - 5 Wavy – winding (7)
 - 6 Domicile (5)
 - 7 Soundness of mind (6)



The solution will appear on January 9, 2020.

Solution No. 13270

TV PICKS

NBA: Sony Ten 1 (SD & HD), 6 a.m. & 9 a.m.
Senior Women's T20: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), 10.45 a.m.
I-League: DSport, 2 p.m.
ISL: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD), 7.30 p.m.

IN BRIEF



Verstappen to stay on at Red Bull until 2023

PARIS
Max Verstappen will stay on at Red Bull until 2023, the team and the driver announced on Tuesday. Third in the drivers championship last season, Verstappen, 22, tweeted: "the best is yet to come...very proud and happy that @redbullracing will stay my home until 2023...Our goal is to fight for a World Championship together." AFP

World Cup winner Daniele De Rossi retires

BUENOS AIRES
Former Italy international Daniele De Rossi announced his retirement from football on Monday, six months after joining Argentine giant Boca Juniors. De Rossi played only seven matches, scoring once, but said he needed to return home for family reasons. De Rossi spent 18 years at Roma before leaving the club at the end of last season. He played 117 times for Italy from 2004-17 and won the World Cup in 2006. AFP



DeMar DeRozan stars in Bucks' win over Spurs

LOS ANGELES
DeMar DeRozan scored 25 points as San Antonio Spurs scored a 126-104 upset of the NBA-leading Milwaukee Bucks on Monday.
Other results: Indiana Pacers 115 bt Charlotte Hornets 104; Orlando Magic 101 bt Brooklyn Nets 89; Philadelphia 76ers 120 bt Oklahoma City Thunder 113; Washington Wizards 99 bt Boston Celtics 94; Denver Nuggets 123 bt Atlanta Hawks 115; Utah Jazz 128 bt New Orleans Pelicans 126; Dallas Mavericks 118 bt Chicago Bulls 110; Sacramento Kings 111 bt Golden State Warriors 98. AGENCIES

Champions ignite Olympic dream

Campriani and Abhinav found that sport was not just about competing hard and winning

GENERAL

KAMESH SRINIVASAN
NEW DELHI

It is a project that goes beyond sport. It was started by the three-time Olympic champion Niccolo Campriani of Italy, and has been sustained by the country's only individual Olympic champion Abhinav Bindra, through his Foundation.

The common link between the two Olympic champions is air rifle, and also they were coached by the same set of experts – Gaby Buehlmann and her husband Heinz Reinkemeier.

After being engrossed about winning in sport all their lives, the two champions found that sport was not just about competing hard and winning.

Remarkable power

In a tough life, sport had the remarkable power to heal the wounds. Campriani chose three refugees, Khaoula, Mahdi and Luna, in col-



On a mission: Niccolo Campriani and Abhinav Bindra with the refugees, among others, during a training stint in Bengaluru. ■SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

laboration with Swiss Immigration Authorities and started training them in air rifle, with 500 days to for Tokyo Olympics, at he World Archery Excellence Centre in Lausanne.

The target was to help the three learn a new sport and get to feel the Olympic atmosphere.

They had to achieve the Minimum Qualifying Score of 595 to be eligible to participate in the Olympics.

Campriani, who won both

the air rifle and 3-position gold medals in the Rio Olympics in 2016, did know about a refugee team. He was keen to make his contribution.

The Olympic Channel is making a five-part series on the project of Campriani, Taking Refuge, projecting the power of sport and its ability to transcend borders and connect the world.

After getting a taste of competition in the Italian and German championships, Mahdi achieved the mini-

mum qualifying score for Tokyo in the Asian Championship in Doha.

Mahdi and Khaoula also visited Bengaluru in December, and were trained in a special range, with the likes of two-time World Cup gold medalist Apurvi Chandel and coach Rakesh Manpat.

They got to experience Indian culture apart from getting full body assessment and customised high-performance training plans at the Abhinav Bindra Foundation.

Poor start by Indians

MALAYSIA MASTERS

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KUALA LUMPUR

Lakshya Sen failed to qualify for the main draw while the pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty crashed out in the first round as the Indian shuttlers got off to a poor start at the Malaysia Masters, a Super 500 tournament, here on Tuesday.

Lakshya lost to Denmark's Hans-Kristian Solberg Vittinghus 21-11, 18-21, 14-21 in a men's singles qualifiers clash that lasted 49 minutes.

Biggest upset

The biggest upset of the day for India was the ouster of the World No. 12 men's doubles duo of Satwik and Chirag, who fought hard before going down to World No. 19 Ong Yew Sin and Teo Ee Yi of Malaysia.

The India pair lost 15-21, 21-18, 15-21 against the lower-ranked local pair in a first round duel that lasted 52 minutes.

The results (first round): Men's qualification: Hans-Kristian Solberg Vittinghus bt Lakshya Sen 11-21, 21-18, 21-14; Liew Daren bt Shubhankar Dey 21-15, 21-15.
Doubles: Ong Yew Sin & Teo Ee Yi bt Satwiksairaj Rankireddy & Chirag Shetty 21-15, 18-21, 21-15.
Women's doubles qualification: Siti Fadia Silva Ramadhanti & Ribka Sugiarto bt Pooja Dandu & Sanjana Santosh 21-15, 21-10.

Prajnesh loses to Daniel

SPORTS BUREAU
BENDIGO (AUSTRALIA)

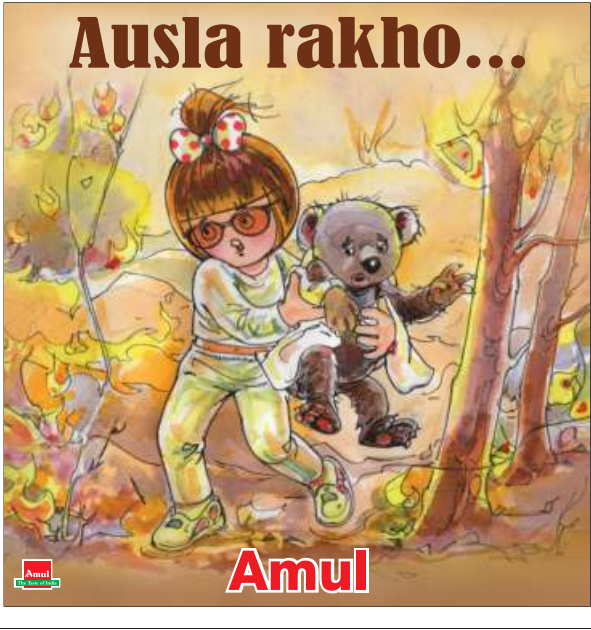
Prajnesh Gunneswaran was beaten 6-4, 7-6(4) by Taro Daniel of Japan in the second round of the \$162,480 Challenger tennis tournament on Tuesday.

The 122nd-ranked Prajnesh collected five ATP points and \$1,560.
The results: **\$1,465,260 ATP, Doha, Qatar: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals):** Wesley Koolhof (Ned) & Rohan Bopanna bt Marco Cecchinato & Lorenzo Sonego (Ita) 6-3, 6-2. **\$162,480 Challenger, Bendigo, Australia: Singles (second round):** Taro Daniel (Jpn) bt Prajnesh Gunneswaran 6-4, 7-6(4).

Rain ruins play

NEW DELHI: For the second day running, play was washed out by rain in the ITF grade-3 junior tennis tournament at the CLTA Complex on Tuesday.

Referee Leena Nageshkar rescheduled the first round matches of boys and girls for Wednesday.



Gill fined 100% match fee

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Shubman Gill has been fined 100% of his match fee for dissent against an on-field umpire during the Ranji Trophy match between Punjab and Delhi in Mohali last week.

In the second innings, Gill again showed displeasure while protesting a

caught-behind decision from the same umpire.

Shorey docked 50%

Senior Delhi batsmen Dhruv Shorey was fined 50 per cent of his match fee for violating the BCCI's code of conduct with "gross misbehaviour" during the fourth-round fixture.

Inter Milan holds onto top spot

Lukaku double seals win against Napoli

SERIE A

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
MILAN

Romelu Lukaku scored twice as Inter Milan held on to top spot in Serie A on Monday with a 3-1 win over Napoli to keep the pressure on Juventus.

Antonio Conte's Inter ended its 23-year wait for a league win in Naples to stay in pole position, level on

points with Juventus after 18 games, but ahead on goal difference.

Inter's three goals all came from mistakes from Napoli.

Lukaku broke through on 14 minutes with a powerful solo run through the Napoli defence, with goalkeeper Alex Meret fumbling the second into goal in the 33rd minute.

Polish striker Arkadiusz Milik pulled a goal back for

Napoli four minutes before the break.

But Lautaro Martinez added the third after the hour mark, following another mix-up in the Napoli defence, to give Inter its first win at the Stadio San Paolo since October 1997.

The results: **Serie A:** Lecce 0 lost to Udinese 1 (De Paul 89).

Napoli 1 (Milik 39) lost to Inter Milan 3 (Lukaku 14, 33, Martinez 62).



Strike! Inter Milan's Romelu Lukaku fires in his second goal. ■AFP

Smoke delays unlikely during Australian Open: Tiley

Tennis Australia chief says players' safety is top priority

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
SYDNEY

Smoke from bushfires is unlikely to delay the Australian Open tennis Grand Slam, organisers said on Tuesday, insisting they have pulled out all stops to protect the health and safety of players.

With the opening major of 2020 due to start at January 20, Melbourne has been blanketed by haze in recent days from blazes burning to the east – part of Australia's bushfire crisis that has left 25 people dead.

Novak Djokovic, president of the ATP players council, said organisers

should consider delaying the tournament, as a last resort, if conditions did not improve.

But Tennis Australia chief Craig Tiley said he did not see this as likely.

"There has been a lot of speculation about whether the smoke from the bushfires will affect the Australian Open," he said.

"All the information we have at the moment, with qualifying coming up next week, is that the forecast is good, we don't expect any delays and we've implemented additional measures to ensure the Australian Open will be able to run

as scheduled. The closest fires are several hundred kilometres from the city," he said, while stressing that the health and safety of players, staff and fans was a priority.

"There will be meteorological and air quality experts on site to analyse all available live data and assess in real-time the air quality at Melbourne Park, and we always work closely with our medical personnel and other local experts."

Melbourne Park has three roofed stadiums and eight other indoor courts, the chances of major delays appear minimal.



Tough time: Though Melbourne has been blanketed by haze, the organisers said they have all plans ready to protect the health and safety of the players. ■GETTY IMAGES

Shedding pseudo-light on a non-problem

The five-day Test format is fine, leave it alone



BETWEEN WICKETS

SURESH MENON

On the one hand, Joe Root, Michael Vaughan, Shane Warne, Mark Taylor. On the other, Virat Kohli, Sachin Tendulkar, Nathan Lyon, Ricky Ponting. The first lot supports four-day Test matches; the second opposes it.

Test cricket hasn't always been played over five days, with 90 overs a day, six balls an over bowled over-arm. There have been timeless Tests, three-day and four-day Tests, four-ball and eight-ball overs. Wickets were once left uncovered. Bats have changed, the height of stumps has changed, the laws have been amended.

So why not give in to television, and administrators with dollar signs in their eyes? Someone has calculated that in the current eight-year cycle, 335 days would have been freed up if four-day Tests had been played.

To make it all sound cozy and generous, one official has said that it would mean cricketers get to spend more time with the family. No one believes him, though.

But the important question is: why fix it if it ain't broke?

The only real issue here is financial: television wants more money while those hosting Tests which end in four days want to save the final day's expenses. Television's response is understandable – after all, they are in it to make money, but the International Cricket Council needs to remember that they are not in it to make profit, but to en-

sure the growth of the game and preserve its essence.

False debate

Four days versus five is a false debate. Gideon Haigh, quoting the Kingsley Amis character 'Lucky Jim' got it right when he said that it "merely sheds pseudo-light on a non-problem." Ninety-eight overs in a day when teams are struggling to bowl 90? Unlikely. A mere 58 overs lost overall? Come on! More matches per series? (what happened to rest and family time?)

The spinner will be denied a fifth-day wicket which seems like part a conspiracy to drive him out of the game. That alone should ensure the proposal is thrown out of the window when the ICC's Cricket Committee sits down to discuss it.

In any case, bilateral Tests can be played over four days, as South Africa have done against Zimbabwe, or England against Ireland. It would be interesting to see if England and Australia play an Ashes Test over four days.

Many Tests end on the fourth day because there is a fifth day available. This is not as mystifying as it sounds. The extra day calls for changes in the approach. The fifth day's 90 overs is not merely mathematical, it is psychological. The richness of the game reveals itself, as does the character of the players. This might be a romantic view, but what is sport without romance? Interestingly, players (especially current ones) are in favour of five days. And fans have no complaints.

Test cricket is a peculiar sport, and its charm lies in its peculiarity. Part of this lies in its duration, in the fact that teams break for tea, and in the manner it is a series of individual contests within the framework of an overall contest. No other team sport has such sus-

tained individual competition within itself. A team, to quote Mike Brearley, works by dint of differentiation. You need the attacking batsman, and the defensive one; you need the wicket-taking bowler, and the one who has a holding job. The range is wide, the possibility of surprises ever present.

Test cricket is not an extension of the white ball game, and it would be a shame to shorten it for mere financial reasons. Already the long innings, the grinding defence is becoming a thing of the past; the only current batsman to play over 500 deliveries in an innings is Cheteshwar Pujara (in the Ranchi Test against Australia a couple of years ago).

Test cricket must produce Test batsmen and Test bowlers, and the ICC is failing if it does not provide the proper challenge, and remains content with white ball players who do not have to work as hard with the fifth day off.

Results aren't an issue

Results aren't an issue. There have been fewer and fewer drawn Tests over the years – in the last decade over 80 per cent of matches have produced results, as opposed to the 64 per cent in the 1990s and 54 in the 1980s. The format is fine, leave it alone.

Perhaps when a team in the top half of the ICC rankings plays one in the bottom half, the Test can be of four days' duration. Just a thought, it needs work.

The problem with Test cricket is not that it is played over five days, but that it is not being marketed well or made more competitive.

That's a completely different debate; tinkering with the essence of the game is not the answer.

Still, with Kohli placing Test cricket above all, and five-day Tests at that, we know the direction the world's best batsman wants to go in.