For women cop

Home minister Mahmood Ali says 17 mobile restrooms are being deployed for women police officers on bandobust



DECCAN CHRONICLE

Sewage board postpones event

Hyderabad: The 'Meet your MD and dial your MD, HMWSSB' programmes, which were to be held every first Saturday of the month, have been postponed. The next date will be intimated shortly.

SURVEY: 52% WANTS RISE IN **CUSTOMS DUTY**

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JAN. 31

In a survey on Local Circles, nearly 52 per cent of the respondents support an increase in customs duty for non-essential goods.

The survey, which was con-ducted in view of the upcoming Union Budget, assumes that the government will impose restrictions on imports of non-essential goods

Out of close to 22.000 citizens who participated in the survey, 26 per cent said these customs duty plus IGST rates on nonessential goods should be maintained while 21 per cent said it should be increased by 25 per cent. Another 19 per cent of the respondents said the rates should be increased by 50 per cent and 12 per cent said these rates should be dou-bled. However, 18 per cent of the respondents said that the customs duty plus IGST rates should be reduced.

According to the Local Circles, non-essential imports from China amount close to ₹4 trillion a year, creating a huge trade deficit. These imports have continuously been rising over the years giving tough and unfair competition to Indian businesses.

The centre may be gearing up to place restrictions on the import of non-essential goods, a move primarily aimed at curbing imports of non-essential items such as toys, plastic goods, sports items and furniture, especially from China.

When asked their view on the proposal to place restrictions on duty-free purchase of sin goods like alcohol and cigarettes. 36 per cent said the existing limits of 2 litres alcohol and 100 cigarette sticks should be continued while 29 per cent of respondents feel the duty-free limit should be halved

About 18% of respondents said that the customs duty plus IGST rates for non-essential goods should be reduced.

BUDGET WATCH Lower prices of essentials in Budget

City family with annual income of ₹4.4 lakh rues they still cannot afford a vacation

SANJAY SAMUEL PAUL | DC HYDERABAD, JAN. 31

Amos Lentin, a 40-year-old graduate, who started as a salesman, has now been working for an MNC, which is a BPO, for a decade. Amos' current annual income is $\gtrless 4.4$ lakh. He is married to Shailaja, who did her BA, B. Ed and was working till she gave birth to their first child. The couple has two children, both studying in

a private school. Life for Mr Lentin and his family is tough. Asked about his expectations from the Union Budget 2020, he said he wanted the prices of petrol and essential commodities to come down, as they are the biggest burden for middleclass families. The Lentins live in Hydershakote, paying a rent of ₹8,000 per month.

They opted for this area because it is on outskirts of Hyderabad and rentals are much more reasonable than in the city. The couple has one dream – to give their children the best of education, which, they say, is quite expensive. Mr Lentin is trying hard to go abroad, the only motive being good money, so that

his family can afford a comfortable living. As the month starts, the family spends around ₹15,000 on groceries, milk, electricity, cooking gas and water bills, apart from ₹3,000 on petrol for his bike and ₹6,000 on monthly EMIs for household electronics that they have bought. Jennifer, the elder daughter studying in Class 6, is the class topper. She wants to become a doctor. Son Joel is in Class 3, likes cricket and is a crazy fan of Virat Kohli. The family spends ₹8,000 on school fee.

A major grievance of Mr Lentin is that he cannot afford to take his family on a vacation. Whatever he earns lets them have a hand-to-mouth existence The salesperson feels the cost of living in the country has become too expensive in recent times. It is tough living for a common man. Even the television cable connection, which was ₹150 earlier, is now The salesperson ₹350. wants the government to provide health benefits for middle class also, so that they too can avail healthcare benefits. Since they salaried class, it are becomes scary when a family person falls ill. Mr Lentin wants the gov-



Amos Lentin clicks a selfie with his family

Driver wants govt to make pvt education free for girls Family with ₹20K income wants cheap goods

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JAN. 31

Can there be free education for girls in private schools, asks 52-year-old Raju, an Allakosa autorickshaw driver plying his vehicle every day from the wholesale Monda Market in Secunderabad. Raju's response came when asked what his expectations are from the Union Budget 2020.

His brings in mostly small-time vendors who come to pick up vegetables from Monday Market and sell them in their respective areas. After dropping them at the market, he picks up regular passengers. He has been doing this since last 12 years earning, on an average, ₹600 to ₹800 a day and educating his three daughters studying in tenth, eighth and seventh

a helper in a kirana shop.

He soon realised there

was not much earning in

the shop and learnt to

drive an auto rickshaw.



moved to Dammaiguda near ECIL.

He found it difficult paying the monthly rent of ₹4,000 in Sitaphalmandi and educate his daughters too. His rent now is ₹1,500. Most of his monthly income of ₹20,000 goes towards educating his daughters, and the rest for groceries and rent. As how his business is,

through. I am sending them to a private school because they get a better education there. The daily use groceries, apart from soaps and detergents, have become very expensive. My fuel prices too have

been rising all the time. Luckily, it is my own auto, which I bought taking bank loan. Otherwise, it

Budget should abolish current taxation system

Family with annual income below ₹15 lakh finds its difficult to deal with rising inflation

RAJESWARI PARASA I DC HYDERABAD, JAN. 31

Abolition of the existing taxation system and introduction of Banking Transaction Tax is one of the biggest economic policy decisions that Surana family, which has a 150-year-old legacy that stretches to various busi-nesses, is expecting from the government.

Á 'well-to-do' family with an average annual income of ₹10 lakh to ₹15 lakh is finding it difficult to deal with the rising inflation rate that is resulting in price hike while making education and fuel unaf-fordable, said financial analyst Jithender Surana, 49, who is managing a joint family in the city along with his wife, Ms Shailai Surana who is Shailaja Surana, who is vice-principal in a private school. Mr Surana has recently admitted his son into a business management course, which is costing more than ₹1 lakh per semester. "Education is important for everyone as it moulds one's future. Given this crucial aspect, there should be more budgetary allocations for education. Besides there should be strict rules to regulate private sector and they should put an end to collection of exorbitant fee." In the 2018-19

G Education is important for everyone as it moulds one's future. Given this crucial aspect, there should be more budgetary allocations for education. Besides there should be strict rules to regulate private sector and they should put an end to collection of exorbitant fee.

- JITHENDER SURANA Financial analyst

■ Jithender Surana wants the government to implement some of the proposal mendtioned in 'Arthakranti proposal' of economy to be implemented in the country.

Budget, only 3.4 per cent was allocated for educawould become cheaper by 35 to 52 per cent and there tion, which was 3.74 per cent in the Budget before that. "Despite dealing with everyday financial hur-dles, what is steadily increasing is the price of fuel. We spend around ₹15, 000 on fuel alone for a twowheeler and a four-wheel-

er that we have," added Mr Surana. He thinks that some of the points from 'Arthakranti proposal' of economy to be implemented in

The country. On the taxes that ought to be scrapped, it is believed that it should result in increasing the purchasing power of the family as they would bring in more salary to home. This will also mean all including l, FMCG commodities diesel, petrol,

won't be any question of tax evasion. With no scope for black money, it will boost business sector as well. And instead of existing taxes, the Arthakranti proposal insists on Banking Transaction Tax

of 0.7 to 2 two per cent. According to the proposal, it would generate more revenue than the existing taxation system.

And it requires no separate machinery like income tax department and tax amount would be directly deposited in State or Central or District administration account immediately. As transaction taxes would be less, the public will prefer it to paying huge direct and indirect taxes.



The Centre government may be gearing up to place restrictions on the import of non-essential goods, a move primarily aimed at curbing imports of non-essential items such as toys, plastic goods, sports items and furniture. especially from China.

29% of respondents feel limit on duty-free purchase of sin goods should be halved

He works 365 days a year, unless he or his wife falls ernment to announce a ill. Raju lived in Sitaphalmandi for a very separate policy for middle class, so that they can long time but recently survive.

Raiu savs as weekly veg in a private school. His etable markets have startwife is a homemaker. ed in many localities, not Raju is a smart worker many vendors are coming to Monday Market to buy who started his career as

> vegetables. He complains of Ola cabs and autos affecting the volume of his business. Asked about his savings, he says, "I am edu-cating my children so that they can have a better life compared to what me and my wife have gone

would have been very ficult for me to pay daily rent for the auto. When asked what his

expectations from the government and coming budget are, he says, "We want a budget that makes the common man's life easier. Why are rates of everything going up; fuel price is high, school fees are high. Can we have a free education for girls in private schools?

Jithender Surana and his family pose for a family photograph

Fresh CAA protests erupt after Juma prayers

in

ATHER MOIN | DC HYDERABAD, JAN. 31

Fresh protests erupted on Friday after the Juma prayers at different places in the city against the Citizenship Amendment Act and the National Population Register.

Youths came out from Masjid Azizia, Humayunnagar, after the prayers, raised slogans of 'azadi' and staged a protest at the crossroads.

They demanded revoking of the CAA and withdrawal of the proposal to hold the NPR and the National Register of Citizens to ascertain nationality. Youths claimed that they will continue their struggle to safeguard the Constitution of India. They also sang the National Anthem.

Youths held similar protests in front of Jamia Masjid, Moazzampura, Mallepally, and Jamia Masjid at Barkas. Different clans gathered on the ground in front of Jamia Masjid, Barkas, and pledged to continue the protests till the CAA revoked. In Mallepally youths holding the Tricolour and raised slogans against the BJP government at

the Centre. In another development, the Hyderabad police has granted conditional permission to the Akhand Bharat Sangharsh Samiti to organise a meeting in support of the Citizenship Amendment Act at the Quli Qutub Shah stadium on Sunday. Additional com-missioner of police, law and order, D.S. Chauhan accorded permission to the samiti to conduct the programme between 6 pm and 9 pm.



Students from different universities protest at OU Arts college against CAA.

- DECCAN CHRONICLE

AV College students protest for 5th day

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JAN. 31

About 4,000 students boycotted classes at the AV College of Arts, Science and Commerce Domalguda on Friday, the fifth day of their protest against the proposed pri-vatisation of the aided institute. The students raised slogans against the government's 'inaction'. Starting from sending

postcards, tying black ribbons to cooking on roads, students were trying to grab the attention of the government. "Certain aided courses are being turned into self-finance courses, which demand more fees. If the fee is ₹2,000 for an aided course, it is ₹20,000 for a self-financed course. This is a burden on most of the students who come from poor financial backgrounds,'

said a student. Student leader N. Rakesh said, "All this is a part of privatisation and the government, instead of creating opportunities, is snatching them away by giving way to privatisation.

An AV College official said, "Some of our surplus staff were redeployed to a government college in 2018. According to the GO

be privatised but should be strengthened for the welfare of students. No. 890, the surplus staff should be sent to another aided college. However, the commissioner has violated the order and has redeployed the staff to a overnment college. He added that the con-

STARTING FROM send-

ing postcards, tying black

roads, students were try-

ing to grab the attention

THE COMMISSIONER of Collegiate Education had taken the decision.

Students demanded that

aided colleges should not

ribbons to cooking on

of the government.

version of courses from aided to self-finance had done without been approval from Felangana State Council for Higher Education Council (TSCHE) or the Osmania University. The Commissioner Collegiate Education had taken the decision. Students demanded that aided colleges should not be privatised but should be strengthened for the welfare of several economically marginalised students

President's address



CPM general secretary Sitaram Yechury said Society dangerously inching toward civil war-like situation

Survey.

system and high burden of

course fee, especially in

higher education, pushes

the poor and underprivi-leged out of the education

education system.

straints'," it said.

'financial

tive, the survey said the composition of various

components of expendi-ture on education indi-

cates that the course fees,

which is 50.8 per cent at all

India level, among others

contributes about half of

the average expenditure of

tuition, examination, dev-

elopmental fees and other

compulsory payments. The proportion of course

include

a basic course.

Course fees

ation SATURDAY | 1 FEBRUARY 2020 | HYDERABAD

SHORT TAKES

86-yr-old molester gets three-year jail

Mumbai: A special POCSO Act court here on Friday sentenced an 86-year-old man to three years' rigorous imprisonment for stalking and molesting a 15-year-old girl in September 2018. Omprakash Lalaram Kulshreshta, the accused, was convicted under IPC section 354, 354-D (stalking and molestation) and also the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act (PoCSO).

Cold weather in N. India intensifies

New Delhi: Cold weather conditions intensified in some parts of north India on Friday with minimum temperatures dropping sharply in Kashmir, Punjab and Haryana, while a thick blanket of fog engulfed Delhi. The maximum temperature in Delhi was recorded at 19.7 degrees Celsius, two notches below normal, while the minimum temperature was at 7.2 degrees, one notch below the normal. Dense fog was also observed in some parts of Haryana, Punjab and western Uttar Pradesh. The minimum temperature was below normal at most places in Rajasthan and Himachal.

CBSE to counsel students, parents

New Delhi: The CBSE will provide psychological counselling to Class 10 and 12 students and their parents on how to deal with anxiety and stress due to exams from Saturday. The 23rd edition of the counselling programme will also use social media platforms to connect with the students in a proactive way. "The counselling will begin from February 1, when the students prepare for exams, and will continue up to March 30 when they write exams," a senior offi-cial of the CBSE said

Interpol nabs drug kingpin in Italy

Ahmedabad: The main accused in a ₹900 crore heroin smuggling racket has been nabbed by Interpol in Italy earlier this week, an official of the Gujarat Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) said here on Friday. The ATS had seized 5 kg of heroin in August 2018 and arrested two people. Probe revealed that it was part of a 300 kg consignment which had entered Gujarat from Pakistan through the Mandv coast. Simranjit Singh Sandhu from Amritsar, was the brain behind the racket.

ECONOMIC | SURVEY **Education in villages costly**

Rural students spend 10% more than urban counterparts on books, uniforms

New Delhi, Jan. 31: 1.5 L Ayushman wellness Expenses of a student on books, stationery and uniform in rural India on an centres proposed by 2022 average are over 10 per-centage points higher than those in urban areas, although participation in education system has seen New Delhi, Jan. 31: To

improvement at all levels, promote preventive healt-hcare, 1.5 lakh Ayushman according to the Economic As per the Economic Bharat Health & Wellness Survey 2019-20 tabled in Centres are proposed to be the Parliament by finance set up by 2022, according minister Nirmala Sithato the Economic Survey raman, the absence of suitable financial support 2019-20.

The Survey was tabled in Parliament on Friday by finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman. A total of 28,005 such centres have already been set up as on January 14, 2020, it added. "Under Mission

system. Citing data from the National Sample Survey (NSS) report on Indradhanush, 3.39 crore 'Key Indicators of Housechildren and 87.18 lakh hold Social Consumption pregnant women in 680 on Education in India districts across the country have been vaccinated. 2017-18', the survey said that in 2017-18, there were the Survey noted. New about 13.6 per cent persons

of age 3 to 35 years who fee is also high in rural were never enrolled in the and urban areas, it added. "The second largest com-'The reasons they cite ponent of average expenfor not enrolling were 'not diture on education by student is books, stationery and uniform," the survey interested in education' consaid.

Among those who were It also pointed out that students pursuing educa-tion in private aided instienrolled, drop-out rate was as high as 10 per cent at primary level, 17.5 per tutions are spending sigcent at upper primary/ middle, and 19.8 per cent nificantly higher as compared to government instiat secondary level, the surtutions across rural-urban vey added. Highlighting India. the challenges for 'Education for All' initia-

Quoting the NSS report, the survey said in 2017-18, the average expenditure of an average student in government institutions pursuing secondary education was ₹4,078 whereas the same for a student in private aided institution was ₹12,487. When it comes to graduation, the expenditure for an average student in government institutions was at ₹10,501, while in private aided institutions it was ₹16,769. -PTI

DC CORRESPONDENT

Asserting that the BJP led

NDA government's deci-sions are in "deshhit

national interest)," Prime

Minister Narendra Modi

on Friday asked ruling

alliance leaders not to feel

defensive about the Citizenship Amendment

Act (CAA) as the law does

NEW DELHI, JAN. 31

JAPAN UNEASY ABOUT CHINA'S SCS MOVEMENT

SRIDHAR KUMARASWAMI | DC NEW DELHI, JAN, 31

vaccines such as Measles-Rubella (MR), Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine, Rotavirus Vaccine and Inactivated Polio Vaccine have also been introduced, it added.

"As per the latest National Health Accounts (NHA) 2016-17, the out of pocket expenditure as a percentage of total health expenditure has declined from 64.2 per cent in 2013-14 to 58.7 per cent in 2016-17," the Survey said.

Primary healthcare accounts for 52.1 per cent of India's current public expenditure on health as per the National Health Estimates, 2016-17. The

National Health Policy, 2017 recommended to spend at least two thirds of the government's health expenditure on primary healthcare, it added. "Ayushman Bharat- Pra-

DECCAN CHRONICLE

dhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY), the health insurance scheme, is a major step towards providing affordable hea-İthcare to the identified poor," the Survey said. The scheme has been

rolled out based on the deprivation and continue tional criteria of the Caste deprivation and occupa-Census for rural and urban areas, respectively, it added. -PTI

Many roadblocks to double farm profits

New Delhi, Jan. 31: To achieve the target of doubling farmers' income by 2022, the Survey said there is a need to address some basic challenges like credit, insurance coverage and irrigation facilities in the agriculture and its allied sectors.

There is also a need to reallocate labour resources to other sectors, give increased focus on exploring global markets for agricultural commodities besides supplementing efforts of farmers with direct income support, it said. "The realisation of the objective of doubling farmers' income necessitates addressal of some of the basic challenges of agriculture and allied sec-

tor," according to the Economic Survey 2019-20 tabled in Parliament. Issues like investment in agriculture, water conservation, improved yields through better farming practices, access to market, availability of credit, increasing linkages between agricultural and non-agricultural sectors

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need attention, it said. According to the Survey the coverage of irrigation facilities needs to be extended while ensuring an effective water conservation mechanism. An inclusive approach to provision for agricultural credit has to be undertaken to address skewness in its regional distribution, it said. — *PTI* said.



Arvind Subramanian

FOREIGN TOURIST ARRIVALS SLOWED DOWN TO 2.7%

New Delhi, Jan. 31: Growth of foreign tourist arrivals to India slowed down to 2.7 per cent in January-October period of 2019 in tune with the global trend, according to the Economic Survey 2019-20. The Indian tourism sector, which is a major engine of growth, had witnessed a strong perform-ance from 2015 to 2017, with high growth in foreign tourist arrivals, the survey tabled in Parliament on Friday said. "However, tourist arrivals growth (year-on year) has decelerated since then to 5.2 per cent in 2018 and 2.7 per cent in January-October 2019," it said. This trend is not unique to India, as the growth in tourist arrivals globally also slowed from 7.1 per cent in 2017 to 5.4 per cent in 2018, it added. As a result, the survey

said growth in foreign exchange earnings from tourism sector has slowed in 2018 and 2019 after registering strong growth until 2017. "Foreign exchange earnings totalled \$24 billion in January-October 2019, with a growth of 2 per cent," it

Survey: Focus on labour for jobs

gested

sised

of

lowest

job prospects.

PAGE

9

or wealth is among these noble pursuits. The colour lavender also sug-

increasing government

The Survey also intro-duced the concept of trust

as a public good that gets

enhanced with greater

use and suggested that

policies must empower

transparency and effec-tive enforcement using

data and technology to

enhance this public good.

"Pro-business practices

can help promote the

ket. In a market economy

too, there is need for state

to ensure a moral hand to support the invisible hand," the Survey empha-

Facing the worst eco-nomic slowdown since

the global financial crisis

called for boosting manufacturing with 'assemble in India for the world'

concept so as to boost job

creation. For the current

fiscal, it projected a GDP

growth of 5 per cent, the

'The deceleration in

GDP growth can be

understood within the

framework of a slowing cycle of growth with the

financial sector acting as

in 11 years.

and worsening

2008-09, the Survey

invisible hand of the mar-

spending and tax cuts.'

measures like

FROM PAGE 1

Amidst a weak environment for global manufactrade and turing, demand, the Indian economy slowed down with GDP growth moderating to 4.8 per cent in the first of 2019-20, lower half than 6.2 per cent in H2 of 2018-19. When asked if there is any change in meeting \$5-trillion target by 2024, Subramanian said, "To best of my knowledge, there is no change in deadline." Subramanian also said by focusing on labour

intensive sector, India can create 4 crore jobs by 2025 and 8 crore jobs by 2030. "The banking sector needs to scale up and become proportional to the size of the economy. The exponential rise in India's GDP and GDP per capita post liberalisation coincides with wealth generation in the stock

market," he said. Interestingly, the Survey also traced the country's history, right from the ancient texts such as Arthashastra and Thirukural to contemporary times and the problem of bad loans. It also drew the connection between the invisible hand of the market, the hand of the trust and how it can contribute to India's target of becoming a \$5-trillion economy. Referring to the four ancient objects of human pursuit — Dharm, Arth, Kaam and Moksh, Subramanian said, "Arth

a drag on the real sector. The government must use its strong mandate to deliver expeditiously on reforms, which will enable the economy to strongly rebound in 2020-21." it said.

Use swadeshi to grow, says Prez

FROM PAGE 1

The issue of atrocities against the minorities in Pakistan was also brought up by the President.

He pointed out that mutual discussions and debates strengthen democracy and also called for making this decade India's decade and this century India's cen-

to honour this wish of the founding fathers of our nation. I am happy that both the Houses of Parliament have fulfilled this wish, by enacting the Citizenship Amendment Act. At a time when the country is celebrating the 150th birth anniversary of Gandhiji, all of you have given paramount consideration to this sentiment," Mr Kovind said. On economic issues, Mr Kovind asked the people to use locally manufac-

tured products for a bet-

ter tomorrow, as he reiter-

ated the government's

commitment to make

India a \$5 trillion econo-

mentioned the

democracy". He also spoke on the abrogation of Article 370, saying there is happiness among the people of India that people in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh "It is our responsibility ar with the rest of the country

Ayodhya judgment, on

the setting up of a Ram temple, saying that the faith reposed by the peo-

ple of India in democratic

institutions "strengthens

the foundation of our

JD(U) wants rethink on NPR forms

it said.

KERALA REJECTS OPPN'S NOTICE TO RECALL GUV

DC CORRESPONDENT THIRUVANANTHAPURAM JAN. 31

In a setback for the Congress-led UDF in Kerala, the **Business Advisory Committee** of the Assembly on Friday rejected the Opposition notice to the Speaker for a moving a resolution to seek the recall of Governor Arif Mohammad Khan. The notice given by Opposition leader Ramesh Chennithala was rejected by the committee on the grounds that there was no such prece dent.

The government had taken a strident position against the Opposition motion during the meeting of BAC and called for its out right rejection. Law and parliamentary affairs minister A.K. Balan slammed the Opposition move saying that the UDF was trying to take advantage of the situa-tion especially in the wake of the controversy over CAA.

"We may have divergent opinions but we want a healthy relationship with the Governor. There is no precedent of House passing a resolution against the Governor,' he added.

The minster claimed that the Opposition had not given the notice under appropriate rules.

Mr Chennithala refuted the claims of the minister. "The notice was given under Section 130 of Assembly rules of Procedure. The Speaker is on record saying that the motion moved by me was admissible," ĥе told reporters.

Making his country's unease clear in a veiled manner about Chinese military assertiveness in the South China Sea (SCS) without naming Beijing, a top Japanese diplomat posted in New Delhi has said Japan "remains seriously concerned about the situation on the ground attempts to unilaterally alter the status quo con-

tures"

Views", Deputy

remains seriously con-

cerned about the situa-

tion on the ground as

He added that the Japanese vision of the

Indo-Pacific region "is

not exclusive but inclu-

sive" and "not aimed at

creating any new insti-

tutions or excluding any

country" and that "it is

open to all countries, as

long as they share its

It may be recalled that

Japan has serious mar-itime disputes with

China. Also, a few south-

east Asian nations like

Vietnam and Philipp-

ines also have maritime

disputes with China. It

may also be recalled that

the US, India, Japan and

Australia are part of the

"Quad'

core concept".

four-nation

arrangement.

other partners do."

tinue, and militarisa-tion of disputed fea-He added that Japan "considers India as an indispensable strategic partner to work hand-inhand to realise a free and open Indo-Pacific ". Speaking in Delhi on "Maritime Security in the South China Sea and

sessions. Another the Indian Ocean: Exploring Convergent Japanese National Chief of Mission (DCM) — now functioning as Chargé d'Affaires (CdA)— Toshihide Ando said, "If we turn our eyes to the South China Sea, attempts to unilaterally alter the status quo continue, and militarisation of disputed features has not ceased. Japan

Budget Session of Parliament, that commenced on Friday, a key con-stituent of the NDA, Shriromani Akali Dal (SAD) suggested that the NDA should hold meetings regularly and not like "token meeting" in the beginning of Parliament

Janata Dal (United) urged the Central government to remove questions seeking details of parents in the Population Register (NPR) question-naire. The JD(U) also urged the government that each NDA constituent should be briefed sepa-rately on the issue and their concerns should be taken into consideration. The SAD also supported the JD(U) on the issue and also suggested that the government should also take suggestions from the NDA allies on key decisions taken by it. In Bihar, where the

not discriminate against any citizen of the country, including the Muslims. During the NDA meeting to chalk out the ruling alliance's strategy for the constituent President Ram Nath Kovind, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other dignitaries proceed towards the Central Hall of Parliament to attend the joint session ahead of

Budget Session, in New Delhi on Friday. tion government, Assembly polls are scheduled by the end of this

year and there is an appre-hension that the "misinformation" regarding the NPR could dent the NDA's poll prospects. The govwise" ernment had earlier clari-

JD(U) is leading the coali- not answer questions that the CAA is not about their parents such as place and date of birth in the NPR exercise. Another ally, Apna Dal requested that the next national Census should also release the "castedata. The Prime Minister, it was learnt, fied that people are free to told the NDA members

against the Indian citizen and the Opposition was trying to create a rift between people and unrest in the country by trying to communalise the new law. Mr Modi, sources said, had wanted NDA leaders to take on the Oppositions' charge against the CAA.

- PT

after seven "Today, decaodes, the whole country is happy that the dream of crores of freedom fighters, including Šyama Prasad Mookerjee, has come true and the people of Jammu-Kashmir and Ladakh, dal its and women from that area have also got the same rights as people in the rest of the country.

"The abrogation Article 370 and Article 35A of the Constitution by a two-thirds majority both Houses of in Parliament is not only historic but has also paved the way for the equitable development of Jammu-Kashmir and Ladakh.

COPS RECOVER WEAPONS, BOMBS

Court's

FROM PAGE 1

He

Supreme

Police recovered a country-made gun, a rifle, about two dozen car-tridges and two dozen country-made bombs.

The IG said this indicated that he could have kept the children hostage for days, and perhaps planned to blow up the house. When Batham demanded the withdrawal of the murder case against him, police

assured him that they would consider it. They also talked about offering government house to him.

While this conversation was going on, a police team entered the house by breaking open the back door. Batham fired two bullets to scare them away. "We thought he had fired at the children and stopped midway,' Agarwal said.

-PTI

Police book sedition case against school based on social worker's complaint CAA FALLOUT

HM, parent held for Modi 'abuse' in drama

Bengaluru, Jan. 31: Days after a sedition case was slapped against a school in Karnataka, its members of the Shaheen headmistress and a stu-School in the district head dent's mother have been quarters town of Bidar arrested for alleged involvement in staging of and students on Thursday. They were produced before a court which a drama portraying Prime Minister Narendra Modi remanded them to judicial in poor light over the CAA custody, police said adding and NRC, police said on further investigation was Friday.



THE DRAMA WAS The police action came after they questioned the staged by students of two women, a few staff

Classes IV, V and VI on January 21

THE PLAY which was uploaded on social media had gone viral

The drama was staged by students of fourth, fifth and sixth standard on

January 21. A sedition case was booked by police on January 26 against the school, along with some other sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) on January 26, based on a complaint from social worker Neelesh Rakshyal. The play uploaded on social media had gone

Officials said, the utter-

ances against the Prime Minister were not part of the original script, but the mother of a class six student allegedly incorporated them during the practice and the teacher allowed it to be part of the

drama. The complainant has alleged the school authorities 'used' the students to perform a drama where

they "abused" Modi in the context of the Citizenship Amendment Act and the National Register of Citizens

The management tried to create 'fear' among the Muslims that they would have to leave the country if the CAA and NRC were implemented, Rakshyal had charged.

-PTI

















viral.

Saddened state

Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal says it is saddening to see convicts in Nirbhaya case escaping death sentence by using legal loopholes





SHORT TAKES

GOODS TRAIN TO HAVE GUARDS

New Delhi, Jan. 31: In a first, railways will allow armed escorts provided by private agencies in goods trains to ensure safety of commodities susceptible to pilferage and theft, according to an order issued by the national transporter. Armed escorts have been initially approved in the Eastern Railway zone and will be reviewed after a period of six months before it is extended to the other zonal railways, the order issued on January 29 said. "The Competent Authority have decided to allow travelling of armed escorts in brake van of moving rakes carrying commodities which are susceptible to theft and pilferage en route," the order from the Railway Board stated. It was in 2014 that escorts of

customers were freight allowed on board goods trains to secure their consignments. However, they were not allowed to carry any allowed to carry any weapons. "While there are not many cases of thefts or pilferage, we decided to try this out as it was the demand of the sector," a senior offi-cial said while elaborating about the move.

THREE JeM MILITANTS SHOT DEAD

YUSUF JAMEEL | DC SRINAGAR, JAN. 31

Three suspected Jaish-e-Muhammad cadres attempting to enter Kashmir Valley after reportedly sneaking into Jammu and Kashmir from across the border at Hiranagar, 56-km east of winter capital Jammu, were shot dead by security forces in an encounter at Nagrota along the Jammu-Srinagar highway on Friday, the police said. One policeman was injured in the shooting.

J&K Director General of Police Dilbag Singh said in Jammu that three to four militants were going to Srinagar in a truck which was intercepted by the police at Ban toll plaza at Nagrota, about 14-km up Jammu.

terrorists "The were believed to be part of a freshly infiltrated group which may have sneaked into Jammu and Kashmir along the International Border (IB) somewnere near Hiranagar in Kathua district. They were on their way to Kashmir Valley," he said. The police said that after the truck was signalled to stop at the toll plaza for routine checking the men on board opened fire triggering an encounter between them and the security personnel 'Three terrorists were killed and one of our jawan was injured," the police chief said.

Following Gandhi



DECCAN CHRONICLE

A child wears a Mahatma Gandhi mask during the ongoing protest against the Citizenship Amendment Act and National Register of Citizens at - PTI Shaheen Bagh in New Delhi on Friday.

Coronavirus: 1,471 persons under observation in Kerala

Condition of infected medical student satisfactory, says health minister

DC CORRESPONDENT THIRUVNANTHAPURAM, JAN. 31

The condition of the Kerala medical student who tested positive for the novel coronavirus, is improving in the isolation ward of Thrissur Medical College where she was shifted on Friday. Health minister K.K. Shailaja said the condition of the girl was satisfactory. No new positive case was reported in Kerala on

Friday. Of the 24 samples sent to from Wuhan, China can be monitored for any signs of National Institute of Virology (NIV) earlier, 18 coronavirus infection. Air India is sending a special flight to rescue Indians struck in Wuhan which has been hit by coronsigns of infection. They will be hosted by ITBP. avirus. Indian Army has created Indian Army officials said a quarantine facility near Manesar where 300 Indian that screening and quarantine will be a two step students arriving from process. "The first one being Wuhan, China can be monitored for duration of screening at airport foltwo weeks by a qualified team of doctors for any lowed by quarantine at signs of Manesar and if any indicoronavirus infection. vidual is suspected to be ITBP has created a faciliinfected, he/she will be ty swiftly near ITBP Chhawla Camp, New shifted to the isolation ward at Base Hospital Delhi for quarantine of 600 Indian families arriv-Delhi Cantonment (BH-DC)," said the officials. ited The screening at the airing from Wuhan. These families will be monitored port will be done by a joint by a qualified team of docteam of Armed Forces Medical Services and tors, to watch for any

Army sets up quarantine unit for Wuhan returnees

PAWAN BALI | DC NEW DELHI, JAN. 31

Indian Army and Indo-Tibetan Border Police have created quarantine facilities where families and students arriving



FAMILY CAN'T MEET STUDENTS UNDER WATCH FROM PAGE 1

During the screening, they will be classified into three groups — suspect case, close contact case and non-contact case. Indian Army officials said that the facility consists of accommodation barracks for the students, administrative areas and medical facility area. To prevent anv mass outbreak, the

Maha girl assault video goes viral

DC CORRESPONDENT MUMBAI, JAN. 31

In an instance of moral policing, a group of vil-lagers in Jalna brutally assaulted a boy and his female friend after finding them together and shot a video clip of the assault which has since

gone viral. The officials said that the incident took place in Gondegaon village where four persons targeted the duo, following which the state government swung into action and the police detained one of the attackers.

The police said that the incident took place Thu-rsday and after the said clip went viral, state home minister Anil Deshmukh issued orders to the police for timely and stringent action against

"The duo was brutally thrashed by a group, of which, one suspect has detaineđ. been The accused is being ques-tioned to ascertain the

identity of the remaining accused, who are yet to be apprehended. There is no clarity on why the accused attacked the duo," the police said. The state government issued orders citing the

severity of the incident. Mr. Deshmukh said, "The incident that took place in Jalna is condemnable. I have issued orders to take measures for stopping it (circulation of the video). Speedy action will be taken against the perpe-

trators. State police chief Subodh Jaiswal said that the police had been asked to look into the incident and also inquire if police action was delayed. The home minister had ordered an inquiry into the local police in the assault case and sought a report

on them. The police filed a case of assault, molestation and acts of common intention against the accused under the Indian Penal Code and further investigation was underway.

Jamia students strike after firing

New Delhi, Jan. 31: Students of Jamia Millia Islamia on Friday gathered outside the gate of the varsity to stage a peaceful protest against the amended Citizenship Act, a day after a man fired a pistol at a group of agitators there, injuring a student. The students carried posters that read "Stop Hate Speech, Safety really?, What's in the name and *Tamache Pe Disco, Jamia se Khisko.*"

Condemning the attack on students, the protesters said they were shocked when they saw the man emerge from the crowd and open fire in full public view amidst heavy police presence.

A student taking part in the protest, who did not wished to be identified, said, "When I got to know about firing, I rushed to erwent a surgery at the the venue along with my friends to check. All we hospital, he said. Tension wanted was a peaceful protest. We have been spiralled in Jamia Nagar on Thursday after a man fired a pistol at a group of protesting here for nearly two months. I definitely anti-CAA protesters, inju feel police could have ring Farooq, before walacted much promptly." king away while waving the firearm above his head and shouting "Yeh Thousands of people and police personnel faced off against each other near lo aazadi" amid heavy police presence in the the varsity on Thursday after a man fired a pistol area. at a group of anti-Citizenship Amendment Act protesters. As night fell, massive protests broke out with agitated students and others gathering near the university, breaking barricades and clashing with police personnel. The protests ended around 9 pm after police released four detained demonstrators, according to university and police officials. Another student taking playground for the polls.

FROM AIIMS New Delhi, Jan. 31: Jamia Millia student Shahdab Farooq, who suffered injuries after a man fired a pistol at a group of anti-CAA protesters out-side the university, was discharged from AIIMS on Friday morning.

Al-Ameen, a student of Jamia's Mass Communication department and Farooq's friend, said he was discharged from the hospital around 8 am. 'His father reached Delhi on Thursday night, but Shahdab won't go back home in Kashmir. He will stay at the university." Al-Ameen said. Farooq und-



FIR FILED AGAINST WB BJP MP

RAJIB CHOWDHURI | DC KOLKATA, JAN, 31

West Bengal BJP president Dilip Ghosh has been booked in an FIR by the police for his sexually outrageous remarks on a young woman, Sudeshna Dutta Gupta, for her protests against the CAA and NRC during his Abhinandan Yatra in the city on Thursday. This is the second time

within a month that the BJP MP of Midnapore faced a case for making controversial comments.

A case was booked at the Patuli police station under sections 354 (outraging modesty), 506 (criminal intimida tion), 509 (words intended to insult the modesty of a woman), 427 (mischief), 341 (wrongful restraint) and 33 (Act) of the Indian Penal Code on Friday. Gupta said, "I lodged the

complaint against Mr. Ghosh on the basis of murderous intent and sexual remarks made by him. I have also sought for police protection anticipating threats in the coming days.

have been found to be neg ative and results of the remaining are awaited. The authorities sent 15 more samples to the NIV on Friday.

The minister said high alert on coronavirus will continue in all districts. The number of persons under surveillance in the state stood at 1,471 with 418 cases with suspected symptoms being reported on Friday.

The police took action against three persons for spreading fake news about coronavirus. The health authorities decided to conduct aware-

ness programmes on coronavirus in schools from Monday. The health minister presided over a high level meeting of health offi-cials, elected representa-

tives, management of the private hospitals and all other stake holders in Thirssur to review the sitriage

She said there was no cause for worry about those who had been admitted with suspected symp-toms in hospital. The min-

uation.

ister reiterated that those who returned from China immediately should report to the nearest hospitals or medical centres. Those with suspected symptoms should avoid public functions, marceremonies and mass transport systems

for the time being. The private hospitals have been asked to follow the treatment protocol iss-

Asha Devi said because

"convicts lawyers had the

audacity to challenge me

Gupta, Vinay Kumar Sha-

The Army's guarantine facility at Manesar

ued by the government. Any suspected cases coming to the private clinics and private hospitals should be immediately conveyed to the government control room.

Isolation wards have been set up in 85 centres in

the private sector. The results of the sam-ples of three students who had returned from China are still awaited from NIV.

-DCAirport Health Authority. students During the screening

they will be classified into three groups: suspect case, close contact case and non — contact case. The suspect case will be individuals with any signs members of fever and/or cough

and/or respiratory distress will be directly transferred to BHDC. The close contact will be

any individual without symptoms but having visa seafood/animal market or a health facility The non-contact case will be any individual without any symptom or contact.

The students had presented with symptoms of sore throat following which cials they had been admitted to the hospital and are currently under observation. The health authorities have taken the initiative to prepare list of people who might have come in contact with the medical students who returned from China before they were quarantined.

facility has been divided into sectors, each with a maximum capacity of 50 The population of these

sectors will not be allowed to intermingle with each other, or with outsiders, including their family

No civilians or serving personnel detailed working inside the facility will be allowed to go outside unless compelled by an extreme emergency.

"Daily medical examination of all students will be done at the medical facility area and all the staff, health care workers and housekeeping staff must wear their personal protective equipment (PPE) at all times," said the offi-

PPE consists of mask, eye shield, shoe cover, gown and gloves. Rest of the visitors and all students will wear a three layered mask at all times. After 14 days, persons with no symptoms will be allowed to go home with their detailed documenta-

part in the peaceful pro-test on Friday said, "We have been protesting peacefully for the last two months. On Thursday, we were heading for a peaceful march towards Rajghat. But police had already put up barricades at several intersections. Students said they will not allow political parties to take advantage of the protests and make it their

PIL on UP's order to recover damages

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, JAN. 31

The SC on Friday sought response from UP govern-ment on a PIL seeking the quashing of the notices issued to alleged protesters for the recovery of damages caused to public property during anti-CAA-NRC protests in the State.

Issuing notice on a PIL by one Parwaiz Arif Khan, a bench of Justice D.Y. Chandrachud and Justice K.M. Joseph gave UP government four weeks time to respond to the PIL which has contended that notices were being issued in an arbitrary manner and contrary to the guidelines issues by the top court. The court also permitted the PIL petitioner Parwaiz Arif Khan move an application for making the Centre a party in the matter. As the lawyer Nilofar Khan appearing for the PIL petitioner sought liberty of the court to make the Centre a party in the case, the bench asked him to

ordered by the Karnataka high court, into the incidents of alleged violence during protests against CAA and NRC. Lawyer Nilofar Khan said that the course that has been adopted by the UP government was in breach of the guidelines issued by the top court in 2009 and reiterated in 2018, the Parwaiz Arif Khan that the issuance of notices for the recovery of damage to public property are being dealt with by the additional district magistrate, especially appointed for the purpose, where as the top court by its guidelines had said that retired judges should deal

with it.

move an application. He cited instances where

the notices have been

issued for recovery of dam-

age caused to public prop-erty in the course of the anti-CAA agitation to the

people long dead or to those

who are nonagenarian.

The PIL petitioner has also

sought an independent

indicial probe, on the lines

DASHED | HOPES Nirbhaya's mother says convicts have no right to live Will fight till convicts hanged: Asha Devi

New Delhi, Jan. 31: Nirbhaya's mother Asha Devi on Friday said she will continue her fight till the convicts in the 2012 gangrape and murder case are hanged, shortly after a Delhi court postponed the execution of death warrants till further order. urday, February 1 Asha Devi told reporters her "hopes are dashed" of the loopholes in law the but she will continue her

fight. These convicts have no right to live. We keep get-ting disappointed by the system. I will continue my fight till the convicts are hanged," she said. A Delhi court postponed the execution of death



Nirbhava's mother reacts outside the Supreme Court of India in New Delhi on Friday.

in court that they will not re issued on January 17. A 23-year-old physiother-The black warrants for apy intern who came to be execution of the death known as "Nirbhaya" (the sentence against Pawan fearless one) was gangraped and savagely assaultrma, Akshay Kumar and ed on December 16, 2012, Mukesh Kumar Singh, wein a moving bus.



would continue to fight for justice

Chief Minister Delhi Arvind Kejriwal said it was "sad" that the convicts were "escaping the death sentence" by using legal loopholes, stressing

that there was an urgent need to amend the laws to

ed: "It saddens me that convicts in the Nirbhaya case are escaping the death sentence by using legal loopholes. We are in dire need to amend our law so that in cases of rape, hanging takes place within six months.









be hanged.'

FROM PAGE 1 Drawing on seemingly endless reserves of courage and patience, she hit back saying that she

ensure hanging in cases of rape within six months. Arvind Kejriwal tweet-



Heartbroken

London Mayor Sadiq Khan says he is heartbroken over Britain's imminent departure from European Union

Trump as early as Friday.

A vote on witnesses, expected Friday, could lead to an abrupt end and

assured acquittal in only

the third presidential impeachment trial in American history. Trump was pressing for action in

time for his State of the

Union address, and that

Democrats'

short.



IN BRIFF

Pak: No proposal for PoK merger

Islamabad: Pakistan has rejected reports that the government intended to merge Pakistan-occupied Kashmir with the country, saying there is no such proposal. Pakistani daily Dawn reported that the speculation about the merger had been doing the rounds for a little over six weeks now. It started with comments attributed to Farooq Haider Khan that he had been told that he would be the last prime minister" of the PoK. . The rumours grew after the the government renamed one of the bureaucracy's service group, the daily said. "There is no such proposal under consideration," Foreign Office spokesperson Aisha Farooqui said on Thursday when asked about the reports. She also rejected that government was thinking to bring new regulation to change the status of Gilgit-Baltistan.

Israel hits Hamas targets

Jerusalem: Israeli aircraft struck Hamas targets in the Gaza Strip early Friday in response to new rocket fire from the blockaded territory, the army said. Three rockets were fired at Israel overnight without causing any casualties. Two were intercepted by air defences, a statement said. Israel swiftly retaliated against Hamas, the Islamist movement which rules Gaza and which Israel generally holds responsible for all rocket fire from the territory. The military struck "Hamas targets in the south of the Gaza Strip", the army said. Israel has deployed additional troops to the Gaza border area since US Pre-sident Donald Trump unveiled a controversial new peace plan on Tuesday that was rejected by the Palestinians.

UNSC for end to fighting in Yemen

United Nations: The U.N. Sec-urity Council called Thursday for an immediate end to a significant" escalation in fighting in Yemen between Houthi Shiite rebels and the Saudi-led military coalition supporting the government. Member nations on the U.N.'s most powerful body "underlined their disappointment" at the return to violence in a statement, saying it "threatens to undermine progress made during the recent period of deescalation in Yemen. Ine council expressed hope "that a renewed de-escalation would create space for the Yemeni parties to move towards comprehensive and inclusive U.N.-led negotiations urgently, on the security and political arrangements necessary to end the conflict and move towards a peaceful transition." The council statement followed a briefing Tuesday by the U.N. special envoy for Yemen, Martin Griffiths.

Senate poised to acquit Trump End draws near in impeachment trial as Democrats likely to fall short in vote

Washington, Jan. 31: Republican Senator Lampresiding over the impeachment trial, could ar Alexander of Tennebreak a tie, but that seems ssee will oppose calling unlikely. Alexander said more witnesses in Pres-ident Donald Trump's impeachment trial, all but dashing Democratic effin a statement there was "no need for more evidence," giving the Trump team the likelihood of a orts to hear more testimo-Senate vote in its direcny and boosting odds the tion. Senate will vote to acquit

Trump was impeached by House last month on charges that he abused his power like no other president, jeopardising Ukraine and US-Ukraine relations. Democrats say Trump asked the vulnerable ally to investigate Joe Biden and debunked theories of 2016 election interference, temporarily halting American security aid to the country as it battled Russia at its border.

As the Senate adjourned late Thursday, it set the date for Tuesday night's speech. Despite the Democrats' singular The second article of impeachment says Trump singular, then obstructed the House sometimes-passionate probe in a way that threatfocus on witnesses after revelations from John Bolton, the former nationened the nation's three-branch system of checks and balances. Before Alexander's state-

-AP

al security adviser, the numbers are now falling ment, Republican Sen. Collins of Maine Susan It would take four Republicans to break with said late Thursday she would vote to allow witthe 53-seat majority and nesses in the impeachjoin with all Democrats to ment trial, briefly raising Democrats' hopes for a demand more testimony. Chief Justice John Roberts, in the rare role breakthrough.



Anti-Trump activist Stephen Parlato arrives at the Capitol in Washington on Friday. - AP

TWITTER, PINTEREST CRACK DOWN ON VOTER MISINFORMATION

San Francisco, Jan. 31 Twitter and Pinterest are taking new steps to root out misinformation voting designed to suppress par-ticipation in the November

elections. Twitter unveiled a new tool Wednesday that will make it easier for users in the US to report tweets containing misleading infor-mation about registering to vote or casting a ballot. The platform said the tool would be available at "key moments" throughout the election. Pinterest, mean-while, announced that it will remove posts that include false information

about where how and when people can register to vote or cast a ballot. Most of the big social media platforms already prohibit deliberately misleading information about voting. Twitter and Pinterest announced the new initia-

tives just before the first-inthe-nation Iowa caucuses on Monday. "As caucuses and primaries for the presi-dential election get underway, we're building on our efforts to protect the public conversation," Carlos Monje Jr., Twitter's direc-tor of public policy and philanthtropy, said in a statement.

US support for Ukraine will not waver, says Pompeo

Kiev, Jan. 31: US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Friday expres-sed the United States' unwavering support for Ukraine after he met President Volodymyr Zeleference. "The US understands nsky in Kiev. "Today I'm that Ukraine is an impor-tant country," Pompeo here with a clear message: the United States sees that

said, in a clear reference to the Ukrainian struggle for freedom, democracy and prosperity is a valiant one. Our commitment to support it will not waver. Pompeo told a press con-

reports that he had told a journalist that Americans did not care about the country. Pompeo is the most sen-

ior US official to visit Ukraine since the start of the impeachment process against US President

Donald Trump, who is accused of withholding military aid to push Kiev into investigating his Democratic rival Joe Washington has Biden. been an important backer of Ukraine in its conflict with Moscow-backed separatists in the country's

east, providing both military aid and diplomatic support. Zelensky, who has taken a series of steps aimed at resolving the conflict since coming to power last year, said he wanted Washington to be more involved in resolving the conflict.

Boris: Brexit not an end but a start After years of political drama, Britan finally set to leave European Union

London, Jan. 31: Britain's exit from the EU is not an end but a new London, beginning, according to Prime Minister Boris Johnson who is set to deliver a message of unity to mark Brexit Day on Friday when the country finally leaves the bloc, over three years after the landmark Brexit vote.

In a video message recorded in Downing Street on Thursday and to be aired at 22:00 GMT on Friday, an hour ahead of the UK's scheduled exit time, the Conservative Party leader who took charge as UK prime minis-ter last year with a "do or die" Brexit pledge will characterise the historic moment as a new beginning for the country.

'This is the moment



IRAN STRIKE: MORE US TROOPS WERE INJURED

Washington, Jan. 31: The number of US troops injured by an Iranian missile strike in Iraq this month has risen to 64, according to new figures released by

the Pentagon. US President Donald Trump had initially said no Americans were hurt by the missiles fired on base housing US soldiers in the country's west on January 8. Democrats later accused Trump of trying to downplay the injuries.

The American personnel have been diagnosed with mild traumatic brain injury (TBI), Lieutenant Colonel Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Campbell, a Pentagon spokesman, said in a statement Thursday. The Pentagon said Wednesday that 50 soldiers were injured in the Iranian strike on the Ain al-Asad base. The latest total is an increase of 14 on those numbers. Iran fired on Iraqi bases housing US troops in retaliation for American drone an attack that killed Iranian commander Qasem Soleimani in Baghdad, raising fears of war. Of those diagnosed with TBI, 39 troops have returned to duty, the Pentagon said, while the rest have either been sent back to the US, are waiting to be sent back or are currently being evaluated. At the time of the strikes most of the 1,500 American soldiers at the Ain al-Asad base were in bunkers, after they were given advance warning from superiors. —AFP

SUICIDE **BOMBER KILLS 3 IN NIGERIA**

Kano, Nigeria, Jan.31: A girl detonated a bomb, killing three boys at an Islamic seminary in northeast Nigeria in an attack that bore the hallmarks of Boko Haram, a local militia and residents said Friday.

The girl, aged around 12, detonated the device late Thursday when open-air classes were on in Muna Dalti, on the outskirts of Maiduguri, the capital of Borno state.

She walked up to the group of boys who were just ending their lessons and "blew herself up in their midst," Mohammed Bola, head of the militia in the area, said

"She killed three boys and injured four others," Bola said about the attack which hap pened around 1900 GMT. Moments earlier, another young girl stormed into a house in the area and detonated her explosives, injuring one person, said resi-dent Salisu Mohammed. "The house was totally destroyed. Luckily, no one was killed as the occupants of the house were outside chatting with neighbors," he said.

The two bombers sneaked into the area together but split to attack different targets, Bola said. The scene of the bombings, a popular night time venue for residents, has been repeatedly targeted by suicide attacks blamed on Boko Haram. The militant group is notorious for suicide attacks on civilian targets including schools, mosques and motor parks.

when the dawn breaks and the curtain goes up on a new act. It is a moment of real national renewal and change," Downing Street said in a read-out of Johnson's address to the nation.

"Our job as the government - my job - is to bring this country together and take us forward. And the most important thing to say tonight is that this is not an end but a beginning," it reads.

In keeping with the message of unity, Johnson is chairing his first Cabinet meeting on tour in the north of England and has chosen the city of Sunderland - the first city to declare support for leaving the EU in June 2016.

"This is the dawn of a new era in which we no longer accept that your it leaves. life chances - your family's life chances - should depend on which part of the country you grow up in. This is the moment when we begin to unite and level up," says Joh-nson, who has vehemently campaigned for Brexit over the years. The UK's formal end to its membership of the economic bloc, so-called divorce, comes into effect at 2300 ain's 47-year membership GMT on Friday. -PTIof the bloc will end on the

Brexit supporters hold the Union Jack with a text reading 'Goodbye EU' next to a man wearing the EU flag in London on Friday.

NEW BEGINNING FOR EUROPE

stroke of 23:00 GMT -- mid-Brussels: The EU's three chiefs hailed Britain's night Brussels time, three departure from the bloc on and a half years after a shock referendum vote to Fridav as "a new dawn for Europe", warning London leave. Prime Minister would not keep the bene-Boris Johnson has promfits of membership when ised to "get Brexit done" and unite the country in a Charles Michel, Ursula new era of prosperity, but months of difficult negotivon der Leyen and David ations with Brussels about Sassoli - the presidents of the EU Council, European the shape of future ties lie Commission and Euroahead. The three EU leadpean Parliament, respecers made clear they would not roll over easily or allow Britain to "have its tively - used an open letter published in European cake and eat it", insisting newspapers to say they would do "everything in Britain could not have full their power" to make the access to the EU market new relationship with Britain a success. Britunless it agrees to follow European labour, taxation

New dawn or biggest gamble? British headlines on Brexit day London, Jan. 31: Brit-ain's Brexit-day front pages expressed both joy three Brexit deadlines ation".

at the country's imminent departure from the European Union and remorse and trepidation on Friday as the UK prepares to go it alone after nearly half a century as part of the bloc. "Yes, we did it!" said the *Daily Express* tabloid, a fervent campaigner for Britain to leave the EU. The headline was imposed over a map of the UK made up of front pages from the newspaper from the 43 months since the June 2016 vote, which saw

come and go before the British parliament finally ratified the divorce agreement. "A new dawn for Britain," said its rival and fellow Brexit-supporting

tabloid *The Daily Mail*. "At 11 pm our proud nation finally leaves the EU - still a friend of Europe, but free and inde-pendent once more after 47 years." The left-leaning *Guardian* was more circumspect, leading its front easily be an analysis of the bound of the second se

"PM wants Canada-style trade deal with Brussels," said the Times, leading with an article on Boris Johnson's attempts to flesh out his ideas for a free trade agreement along the lines of a recent EU deal with Canada. "Britain bows out of EU with a mixture of opti-mism and regret," said The Financial Times. "It's been quite a ride," splashed the business City AM paper over a mock-up of a roller coaster car-riage filled with prominent faces from the Brexit

saga.

- AP

-AFP

Irag's security forces have resumed operations with the US-led coalition to fight Islamic State group sleeper cells, the global alliance said, after tensions led to a more than threeweek pause.

ARMY AFFAIRS Afghanistan ranks last in Asia-Pacific region for corruption, says global watchdog Afghans will need billions more in aid as US leaves Kabul.

Afghanistan will need vast amounts of foreign funding to keep its government afloat through 2024, a US agency said Friday, even as foreign donors are increasingly angry over the cost of debilitating corruption and the US seeks a peace deal with Taliban to withdraw its troops from the country. International money pays for roughly 75 per of all of Afghanistan's costs while Afghanistan's costs while the biggest concerns government revenue cov- among frustrated donors.

Jan.

tures.

war

in

31: ers barely a quarter of President Afghan public expendi-The Special Inspector General for Afghan Reconstruction.

which issues reports quarterly to US Congress, monitors all US spending in the 18-year Afghanistan, failing anti-corruption America's longest war. drive. The agency's latest report was sharply critical of the Afghan govern-

ment's efforts to curb cortion have ruption, saying it is one of



Ashraf

-AFP

January. Ghani's future is uncertain as final results of last year's presidential elecyet to be announced, though the preliminary results gave Ghani the win.

and environmental rules.

His main rival, Abdullah

Abdullah, who serves as the country's chief executive in a fragile national unity government with Ghani, has claimed fraud. Afghanistan ranked last in the Asia-Pacific region for corruption, a global watchdog said earlier in

According to Transpurency International, arencv Afghanistan's global ranking last year at 173 of 180 countries it surveyed was the worst since the group began ranking the forces.





Today that figure has risen to 55 per cent of Afghans.

The United States is pay ing USD 4.2 billion yearly just for Afghanistan's security and defense -AFP



Marine Gen. Frank McKenzie (centre), top US commander for the Middle East, makes an unannounced visit, in Kabul on Friday.





will be taken at face value.

A widely shared view is

to do something sensa-

Delhi Assembly polls to

consolidate communal

different view is that he

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Thakur's outrageous

meeting...

polarisation. A somewhat

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tional just days before the

that the gunman was

Delhi police.

Chronicle

1 FEBRUARY 2020

In Delhi, BJP is playing

a very dangerous game

they were setting out for Rajghat on the day of Mahatma Gandhi's martyrdom on Thursday, and injured a student. It is unlikely Mr Shah

The shooter's Facebook activity suggests he has long been linked to the RSS and its affiliates. After discharging a bullet from his gun, he appeared only a few yards away from the massed police force and seemed confident

he will come to no harm. When a policeman at last apprehended him, the widely beamed videos showed the shooter raised a slogan in favour of the

A widely shared view is that the gunman was planted by Hindutva forces

to do something sensational just days before the Delhi Assembly polls on

February 8 to consolidate communal polarisation. A somewhat different but not wholly dissimilar view is that he, a self-confessed Hindutva

leaders

an activist of the ABVP, the RSS' student body, is still roaming free. Other

attackers were found to be linked to the same group. But the only FIR filed by the police was against Aishe Ghosh, leader of the students' union who was attacked with a rod and had serious injuries to her head. Such a police force is expected to be indulgent with criminals of the Hindutva variety.

All this is very well, but what of Mr Thakur? Is it enough that he was

asked by the Election Commission to sit out the campaign for a few days,

now that his vulgar exhortation has led to a shooting? Should criminal

law not catch up with him for being an accessory to an attempted murder? Probably none of this will happen. After all, just after saying strict action

will be taken against the shooter, the Union home minister on Thursday

said the Delhi election was a battle between Shaheen Bagh and those who

taught Pakistan a lesson through a "surgical strike". The dumbest mind can't fail to see that anti-CAA protesters are being singled out as being of one faith, though this is a false pitch. The BJP has prepared a communal wicket and is playing every stroke in the book on it, not bothering with any other issue. This is a dangerous poll campaign.

A new emergency

he Wuhan coronavirus is here. The emergency will stretch India's

scarce medical resources and the formal declaration by World

Health Organisation can only add to the panic. The preparedness in

cities and towns with a basic health infrastructure and airport screening processes has been fine so far and there has not been a single death out-side China yet. The coronavirus mortality rate is around only three per cent as compared to MERS (35 per cent), SARS (10 per cent) and Ebola (50

per cent). But, alarmingly, in at least four countries — the United States,

Germany, Japan and Vietnam — the virus has transmitted human to

A Kerala woman studying medicine in Wuhan has been declared the first confirmed case in the country and it is a good sign that she is recov-

ering. The only problem is this virus may be incubating in many China

returnees and there is really no predicting how widely silent carriers

have been transmitting a virus strain that has shown an ability to quick-

nationalist who was psyched up by pro-pagandist videos (like many young Muslims drawn to the current concept

of jihad), fell an easy prey to Anurag

Thakur's outrageous provocation at a

public meeting two days earlier when

he instigated a Delhi election rally to chant "shoot the traitors", with those of a particular faith being all but identi-fied as such by a long list of BJP top

Any propaganda-crazed Hindutva-ori-

ented youth is likely to be dead certain

he will come to no harm these days. Last month, one of the JNU attackers, a young woman who was identified

though she too had her face covered, as

nion home minister Amit Shah has reportedly asked the Delhi police to take the "strictest" action against the young man who opened fire with a pistol at anti-CAA protesters at Jamia when

MIND POWER

DOLLY PARTON ISAAC NEWTON

There's nothing like white trash | My powers are ordinary. at the White House Only my application brings me success.





CAA-NRC: Missing the wood for the trees?

Konda Vishweshwar Reddy

most Indians, I was also caught up in the confusion regarding the nip (Amend-Citizenship ment) Act and the National Register for Citizens when I tweeted, "Never thought I would ever see Asad Owaisi and MIM in a rally holding Indian flags. Maybe we should thank PM Modi." This half-joking tweet got a huge response, both on the social media and among my personal friends — there was criticism and compliments in equal measure.

I did not expect such a major response. Perhaps, this reflects deep divisions and growing suspicion within our society. That has led me to write this article.

This is not to clarify the tweet or set the record straight — I don't need to do that. Whoever knows my work and my family, particularly my grandfan to pol ier's cont

showing the people the ghosts of the past? If given a real democratic opportunity, populations in these countries, particu-larly the young, totally reject these divisive politics. Other regions have come out of terrible conflicts and are now cooper-ating with each other. We

The CAA and NRC and the reactions to it, too, unfortunately seem to be rooted in that past. Let us examine four aspects of the controversy. First, no Indian –

deny that there was, and still is, large scale, systemic discrimination against Hindus in Pakistan and in Afghanistan and Bangladesh. That is a fact. India, as a secular and democratic nation, upholding human rights and the rule of law, has a responsibility to provide a safe and secure home to those forced to flee their homes and countries. We have historically done that. Even as recently as 1970, India gave shelter to almost 10 million people, mostly Muslims, who were forced to flee their own country. We need to ask two questions: Is the CAA the only way to give citizenship to those Hindus discriminated against in other countries? Do we need to create insecurity within our own society, particularly our Muslim population, in order to provide citizenship to Hindus? We never had a serious. open and honest debate about this. Protests are essential in a democracy, but protests must lead to dialogue. It is not too late to have that dialogue. And I am happy to hear that the government is open to dialogue. My second point is about the NRC — every country needs to have two things – a well-defined geography and its citizenry. Some countries might

dispute borders and stake

a claim; similarly some

individuals might sneak

in and claim the benefit of

citizenship or subvert the

democratic political process. The NRC is sup-

posed to find a solution for citizenship. While the number of people who might have sneaked in illegally may be pretty small, it is significant in certain parts of the country. Unfortunately, the NRC seems to have opened a Pandora's box requiring every Indian to prove that he/she is indeed Indian purportedly by producing the birth certificates of their father and mother. Is this really required? Is it not possible to do it differently? Common sense suggests it is. So, the question is the same, is the NRC creating insecurity among Indians in the name of identifying illegal aliens?

Governments of the day need to resolve these issues, without fomenting insecurity, doubts and unrest. There used to be an old rural saying, do we burn our house to get rid of the rats? In this case, it is entire villages and towns. There are better and cost-effective as well as acceptable methods first to prevent rats from entering the house, and if they do, to catch them. It is not a perfect analogy, but a close one. Since we diverse as ours. are dealing with human beings, the process must be humane. India is a sig-

sons: a) Unless a Muslim majority state does not treat its minorities well, the demand by Muslims for equal treatment in the rest of India will not be seen as morally defensible, b) the CAA and NRC,

which are being seen as discriminatory to Mus-lims, need to highlight the plight of Hindus in the past, present and future. Fourth, in Independent India, secularism as a concept has never become a target. But today, whatever might be the problem of definition, it appears that there is a concerted effort on to seri-ously undermine our own Constitution and its core principle — secularism. Projecting secularism as anti-Hindu is dangerous not only for India but for Hindus living worldwide. Governing a country like India without secular values is not possible, given its diversity — religious, cultural, linguistic, geo-graphic, ethnic and even racial. That is exactly what is enshrined in the Constitution Constitution. India should and will be an example for governing a country as large and

Let me return to the tweet. In India, some Muslims, even after seven natory to many human decades, feel the need to show their tism h

LETTERS LETTER FROM CHINA It is unfortunate that banks

will close for two days due to a staff strike and the employees have given a call for further strikes in the coming months. It is the general public which is going to be the biggest loser and the sufferer.

> Lal Melwani Hyderabad

—**≻ c m** y k

PAGE

FIRING AT JAMIA

The firing at students of Jamia Millia is the real terrorism which the country and the secular population is scared of. Our security forces can stop terrorists from entering the country. However, India is under threat from fundamentalist organisations and their misguided members. These are tactics to create fear among secular people taking part in protests. Shaik Yousuf Ali

Hyderabad

Subhani's cartoon aptly sums up the firing at Jamia which marking the culmination of hate speech by politicians. It has forced the Gandhian ideology and collective conscience of a peace loving nation off the pedestal. India watched in horror a repeat of the incident 72 years ago when Mahatma Gandhi was felled by the bullets of Godse. Varghese George Secunderabad

Radicalisation has reached its peak The shooting was the result of slo-gans raised by ministers like Anurag Thakur. Political parties and media must be held responsible for this hatred.

Syed Maaz Razvi Hyderabad



ly spread through large droplets. Home quarantine has been recommendfor those wh o have come back and their discipline to stav isolated wil be tested in the days to come

China has responded as only a totalitarian state can in containing the outbreak. Precautions have been widely publicised but it is worth repeating that the mask could be more useful for people on the move and that washing hands — for 20 seconds at least with soap and water — is far more likely to help keep the virus out. Keeping a distance from those showing any symptom of influenza and use of alcohol rubs and awareness about not touching objects in public spaces might help in remaining uninfected. Remember a vaccine is still some time away.

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ADITYA SINHA Editor

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itics and communal harmony, knows clearly what I stand for. I don't need to dwell on it. The CAA and NRC are supposed to resolve some longstanding issues. Instead, the same has created deep divisions and suspicions that have spilled onto the streets, in the form of crowds shouting slogans, waving flags citing and Constitution. The Partition of India and its aftermath occurred more than 70 years ago. More than 96 per cent of the Indian population today is born after Independence. Over 45 per cent are below the age of 25 years. For most Indians, particularly "millennials", Partition is Indians. history. That generation has totally different dreams and aspirations. Instead of seriously focus-ing on the future, our subcontinent is stuck in the past. Settling scores, hurting each other, continuing with old rhetoric and wasting precious resources on purchasing arms have become the rule rather than the exception. Why are we surviving by

international covenants. More important, we have always upheld values of openness, secularism, pluralism and humanitarianism. Third, there is the issue

convent

of Kashmiri Pandits. It has a certain connection with what is happening. Great injustice has been done to Kashmiri Hindus; according to some estimates, over seven lakh fled Kashmir due to discrimination, systemic harassment and direct violence. This led to untold misery for more than three decades. Those who wish to go back will have to be resettled safely. This is a major challenge for our nation for two rea-

In times of crisis, the only arbiter, protector and comfort are the flag and the **Constitution.** The flag is not a piece of cloth, neither the Constitution a book, and they represent our long-cherished history and values.

waving the tricolour or singing the anthem. That is not fair. Equally unfair is that some people who promoted a divisive culture are today trying to use the flag to serve their own agendas. Statesman-

ship, not politicking, is the need of the hour. In times of crisis, the only arbiter, protector and comfort are the flag and the Constitution. The flag is not a piece of cloth, neither the Constitution a book, and they represent our long-cherished histo-ry and values. But we need to do more than waving flags. The insaniyat-jamhooriyat principle of former Prime Behari Minister Atal Vaipayee is something to which we can all hark back. Let's all together ensure that we stand by this ideology and protect it zealously. In fact, secu-

go hand in hand. The writer is an engineer, entrepreneur, politi-cian and a former elected member of Parliament from Chevella, Telangana state

larism and nationalism

are both required as they

Email your letters to info@deccanmail.com, editor@deccanmail.com. You can also send them to Editor, Deccan Chronicle, 36, Sarojini Devi Road, Secunderabad-500 003.



CHANDIGARH, JAN. 31. HISSAR town in Haryana was under the Army briefly today as the State, observing hartal for the second successive day in protest against the award of Chandigarh to Punjab, was rocked by fresh violence which left one dead and another seriously injured in police firing.

With today's fatality, the toll in the police firing since yesterday rose to eight. Six persons had been killed at Rewari yes terday - one body was found only today — and one at Dadri. At Jagardhari in Ambala district police fired today to disperse a violent mob attacking a post office, killing one person.



Be ready for Afghan angst after US exit

oth [the US and Pakistan] are on the same page that there's no military solution in Afghanistan and we are working hard to bring peace to the country," said Prime Minister Imran Khan in an interview with CNBC last week. Clearly, the PM's reference was to efforts Pakistan is making in tandem with the Khalilzad-Taliban talks in Doha for a ceasefire or at least "reduction in violence" as a prelude to dialogue between the Taliban and Kabul government. So far there is no sign the Taliban are willing to do this, or go beyond reach-ing an agreement for US troop withdrawal in exchange for their pledge not to allow Afghanistan to be used to plan terrorist attacks against the US and to abjure ties with Al Qaeda, Daesh or other terrorist groups. Is this enough to bring peace to an Afghanistan in which government

-

forces would have lost control of a number of provincial capitals were it not for US air support operations and cash support for its largely ineffective local forces? The Kabul government is fragmented and there's little chance that it will become more united or self-sustaining. Now President Ghani says he is "totally ready" for a withdrawal of 4,000 of the 12,000 US troops, but the Taliban want a complete withdrawal though they may be open to making this phased

The Taliban have said that they do not want to monopolise power but would want to revise the Afghan constitution to make it conform to their interpretation of Sharia, and would include others in the power structure on terms they deem appropriate. In their view, Trump is intent on withdrawing and no further concessions are necessary. This could set the stage for another civil war.

Pakistan must sadly come to the conclusion that while we wish to promote peace, the dire situation in Afghanistan will leave us no choice but to insulate ourselves even while taking every step possible to help with reconciliation. This means:

We must ask the Taliban on our soil to move back to Afghanistan and carry on negotiations with the US from their bases in Helmand and Kandahar. Make it clear that we recognise the Kabul government and support an Afghan-led and -owned peace process. This negotiation, if it materialises, will be long and complex; if asked we will try to help. Pakistan should ensure our

refugees commissioner exercises complete control over all camps, and prohibits clandestine addition to the refugee population or use of the camps as Taliban recuperation centres. While continuing to treat Afghan patients in our hospitals, we would carefully vet anyone with battlefield wounds. Complete the fencing of the border and, with UNODC, strengthen surveillance on smuggler movements. We can facilitate Pak-Afghan trade and make suitable concessions to ensure Afghan goods are marketed here and beyond our borders. The truck monitoring system the PM has authorised would be an essential tool to check smuggling. With Chinese cooperation, allow Afghanistan to use CPEC and to the extent possible to facilitate the use of CPEC by Central Asian states. Make prompt royalty and transit payments to the Afghan government.

Pakistan ought to prevail on the Americans, who eschew nationbuilding even under a non-Trump administration, to continue to provide material support for the salaries of 320,000 Afghan National Defence

+

forces as well as budgetary support which would allow at least some maintenance of education and health services. The plea should be based on the fact that an Afghan collapse would adversely affect the entire region, and may prove a repeat of the power vacuum left after the collapse of the Soviet Union.

We should also be prepared in the future to help Afghanistan exploit its mineral deposits (estimated to be worth anywhere between \$1-3 trillion) and explore the possibility of matching Pakistan's mineral resources with those of Afghanistan's (bringing copper ore from Afghanistan's Aynak Copper mine to Reko Diq and thus having enough ore to justify the setting up of a refinery unit within our borders instead of exporting raw ore).

By arrangement with **Dawn**













Engagement Bill Gates' eldest daughter Jennifer announces engagement to Egyptian equestrian Nayel Nassar

Wuhan/London/Washin gton/Paris: With more

than 20 countries now

affected by the coron-

avirus disease, nations

stepped up travel restric-

tions on arrivals from the Asian giant on Friday

even as nearly 10,000 peo-

ple were infected in China.

Wednesday.

specialist care.

coronavirus.



IN BRIEF

ESA's Solar Orbiter launch on Feb. 7

Michigan: A solar orbiter mis-sion by the researchers of the University of Michigan will be launched on February 7 for studying the physics of the Sun and will also be the first to capture the images of Sun's poles. The European Sp-ace Agency's Solar Orbiter will function in coordination with Parker Solar Probe of NASA which was launched earlier in August 2018. According to researchers, the orbiter will be launched from Cape Canaveral. Solar storms are generally the torrents of charged particles and electromagnetic fields that travel from the Sun and rattle the magnetic field Earth. Disturbances can harm power lines and put expensive transformers at risk and can also damage satellites. The ability of humans to predict the threats arising from solar activity used to come from the data that is collected from spacecraft and telescopes that were stationed far from the action on the Sun.

Man killed in Japan avalanche

Tokyo: The body of a French man was found on Friday after an avalanche struck a northern Japanese mountain where he was backcountry skiing with seven other French citizens, local police said. The death of Mr Sylvain Lethier, 38, was confirmed after a rescue team found his body off the slopes of the Tomamu ski resort in the northern Hokkaido region, a brief police statement said. The avalanche happened on Thursday afternoon, when the group of eight went off the resort's ski courses to venture into the untouched snow on the mountain. Seven of the group were able to descend on their own by Thursday evening, leaving Mr Lethier, who was "unconscious and in critical condition", according to a local fire official.

NASA says goodbye

to Space Telescope

New Delhi: After nearly two decades, NASA has finally bid adieu to one of its iconic telescopes. Spitzer Space Telescope that has taken images of the most ancient objects in Universe was decommissioned on Thursday, a tweet from NASA Spitzer handle said. "Farewell, Spitzer. Thank you for the great science", the tweet added. Spitzer was the part of NASA's four Great Observatories and displayed an infrared view of the cosmos. Launched in 2003 the telescope was planned only for five years, but it lasted nearly sixteen and a half years. Saturn's new ring, directing light from exoplanets, and finding an entire solar system are some of the major discoveries of the Spitzer telescope. Spitzer's observation also helped in discovering the oldest galaxy we've ever found.

20 nations hit, 10k people in China British evacuation plane leaves Wuhan with 110 people, US issues travel advisory

We're working very closely with China and with a lot of other people and a lot of other countries on combating the outbreak of the Coronavirus. We think we have it very well under control. We have very little problem in this country at this moment.

> - DONALD TRUMP US President

Countries have scram-bled to evacuate their nationals from Wuhan, with US and Japanese citi-zens leaving first on Wodnosday Mongolia went a step fur-ther. Citing a likely "sharp-Britain and France airlifted hundreds of their nationals on Friday. er rise" in the spread of the virus, Singapore's gov-ernment barred arrivals The UK government on and transit passengers who visited China in the Friday confirmed the first two cases of the deadly past 14 days, and stopped issuing all forms of new visas to Chinese passport coronavirus in the country and said the patients were members of the same family who were receiving holders. Mongolia will ban Chinese nationals and for-The UK's Department for eigners coming from the Health stressed that the National Health Service (NHS) is "well-prepared" to deal with the virus, which entitiented neighbouring country by plane, train or road from Saturday until March 2. Mongolians will be barred which originated in Wuhan in China and has from going to China over

the same period. claimed 213 lives there. We can confirm that two patients in England, who Vietnam, Prime In Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc ordered the suspenare members of the same sion of new tourist visas family, have tested positive for Chinese citizens and for coronavirus, said Chris Whitty, the UK's Chief Medical Officer. foreigners who have been in China over the last two weeks. Trade with China The patients are receiv-ing specialist NHS care, will also be "discouraged" until the outbreak abates. he said. Japan, mean-while, joined Britain, and we are using tried and tested infection control procedures to prevent fur-ther spread of the virus. The NHS is extremely well-prepared and used to Germany and other countries that have recom-mended that their citizens avoid China. Russia sealed managing infections and its remote far-eastern frontier. Papua New Guinea went so far as to bar all visitors from

we are already working rapidly to identify any contacts the patients had, to prevent further spread, he said. Three people "Asian ports" Some countries banned aboard Japan's first evacuentry for travellers from ation flight tested positive Wuhan, the city in central after landing back home, Hubei province where the

Italy, which has stopped all flights to and from China, declared a state of two of whom showed no symptoms, underscoring the difficulty detecting the South Korea said 18 of emergency on Friday to around 350 people who were repatriated from fast-track efforts to prevent the spread of the virus. In Bangladesh's biggest airport, workers held up digital thermome-Wuhan were hospitalised after showing symptoms. The US State Department raised its warning alert to ters to passengers' heads. A beeping alarm sounded the highest level, telling as a passenger walking through a thermal scan-Americans "do not travel" to China and urged those ner registered a fever. already there to leave. Singapore, Vietnam and — Agencies



A man wearing a face mask lies dead on the pavement at ground zero of China's virus epidemic, a plastic shopping bag in one hand.

Dead man lies on an empty street in Wuhan

Wuhan (China): A greyhaired man wearing a face mask lies dead on the pavement at ground zero of China's virus epidemic, a plastic shopping bag in one hand.

On what would typically be a crowded street in Wuhan, an industrial city of 11 million under quarantine, there are only a few passersby and they dare not go near him.

Journalists saw the body on Thursday morning, not long before an emergency vehicle arrived carrying police and medical staff in full-body protective suits. The man lay straight on his back in front of a closed furniture store. Medical staff in blue over-alls gently shrouded his body with a blue blanket. The ambulance left, and police stacked supermarket cardboard boxes to

hide the scene. AFP could not determine how the man, who appeared to be aged in his 60s, had died. AFP contacted police and local health officials afterwards but could not get details on his case. But the reaction of the police and medical staff in hazmat suits, as well as some of the bystanders, highlighted the fear pervading the city. A woman standing near the man, wearing pink pyjamas and a Mao cap,

said she believed he had died from the virus.

"It's terrible," she said. "These days many people have died."Wuhan is the epicentre of the outbreak the new coronavirus, which is believed to have jumped from wild animals at a city market into humans.

virus, which The emerged late last year, has claimed at least 213 lives and infected thousands in China. with at least 159 deaths in Wuhan alone.

With the virus spreading to other countries, the World Health Organisation has declared the crisis a global health emergency. -AFP

I'M MORE USEFUL HERE: FRENCH **DOCTOR STAYS PUT IN WUHAN**

Wuhan, Jan 31: France is preparing to airlift hundreds of its citizens from the Chinese city at the centre of a deadly coronavirus outbreak, but one Frenchman is staying put.

Philippe Klein is head of the International SOS Hospital in Wuhan, the first city to be locked down by Chinese authorities as they battle the spread of the virus. "It's not an act of heroism. It's been wellthought out, it's my job," Klein said of his decision

to stay. "I think I'll be much more useful here than in France." The new coronavirus has killed 170 people so far in mainland China. with thousands infected across the coun-

help the local French community. Some 500 French nationals are registered with the nation's consulate in Wuhan. French auto giant PSA

Klein said he wants to

-AFP

and Renault have factories in the city, and the local universities run exchange programmes with institutions in France. Not all French nationals are leaving - some for pro-fessional or family rea-

sons, and others do not want to spend 14 days in quarantine upon their

return to France. But Klein, a father of four who has been based in China for six years, recommends they do leave.

The coronavirus has sparked fear of a wider, global outbreak.

Bushfire: State of emergency in Canberra Greta nominated

TOXIC WATER TO BE FLOWED INTO SEA

Tokyo, Jan.31: Radioactive water from the stricken nuclear plant in Fukushima should be released into the ocean or vaporised into the air, an expert panel advised the Japanese government on Friday.

The proposal is non-binding and sets no deadline for the government to decide or carry out procedures to deal with the water.

The panel has been weighing the issue for more than three years, but a decision is becoming urgent as space at the site to store the water is running out.

The TEPCO-operated nuclear plant suffered a meltdown in 2011 after it was hit by an earthquake-triggered tsunami. The radioactive water comes

from several different sources including water used for cooling at the plant, and groundwater and rain that seeps into the plant daily and is put through an extensive filtration process.

The panel convened by the industry ministry said releasing the water into the sea or into the air using vaporisation are "realistic options." Discarding the water into the

sea "can be done with certain-ty," they added, because the method is also used at normal nuclear reactors.

The panel only has an advisory role, and in their proposal said they hope the government "will make a decision with a sense of responsibility and determination"

Canberra, Jan. 31: The Australian capital region declared a state of emergency on Friday because of an out-of-control forest fire burning erratically to its south.

It's the first fire emergency for the Australian Capital Territory area since 2003 when wildfires killed four people and destroyed almost 500 homes in a single day. The threat is posed by a blaze on Canberra's southern fringe that has razed more 21,500than hectares (53,000 acres) since it was sparked by heat from a military helicopter land-ing light on Monday, the Emergency Services Agency said.

'The state of emergency sets a clear expectation for our community that we need you to be vigilant," Emergency Services Minister Mick Gentleman told reporters. "This is the worst bushfire season in the ACT since 2003." The fire is burning at

emergency level — the highest on a three-tier scale of danger — and embers have created dan-gerous spot fires nearby, agency officials said.



A wildfire glows on the hills near Clear Range, south of the Australian capital Canberra on Friday.

Residents of southern or evacuate. Canberra suburbs and surrounding villages have the village of Tharwa late been advised to prepare to Friday because the fire either protect their homes

Roads were blocked to posed too much danger for ing Australia's droughtThe state of emergency sets a clear expectation for our community that we need you to be vigilant, this is the worst bushfire season in the ACT since 2003

- MICK GENTLEMAN **Emergency Services Minister**

stricken southeast. fires Unprecedented across southern Australia have claimed at least 33 lives since September, destroyed more than 3,000 homes and razed more than 10.6 million hectares (26.2 million acres).

The fire danger is forecast to escalate across the southeast in the Capital Australian Territory and the states of New South Wales and Victoria as summer temperatures rise over the weekend.

The state of emergency gives Canberra's local gov-ernment additional powers to block roads, direct people's movements, control their property and undertake firefighting work on private land. -AP

for Nobel prize

Stockholm, Jan. 31: Teen climate activist Greta Thunberg and the global protest movement "Fridays for Future" were nominated Thursday for the 2020 Nobel Peace Prize by two Swedish lawmakers.

"Greta Thunberg is a cli-

main reason she deserves

the Nobel Peace Prize is

that despite her young age,

she has worked hard to

make politicians open

their eyes to the climate

crisis," Left Party parlia-mentarians Jens Holm and Hakan Svenneling

wrote in a letter to the

Norwegian Nobel Comm-

ittee. "The climate crisis

will produce new conflicts

Action for reducing our

emissions and complying

with the Paris Agreement

is therefore also an act of

making peace," they said. The pair added that

without the Fridays For

Future movement and

Greta Thunberg, "the cli-

mate issue would not have been on the agenda

to such an extent as it is

and

ultimately wars.



Greta Thunberg

today" Thunberg, 17, was mentioned as a possible Nobel Peace Prize winner in 2019, when the honour ultimately went to Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed for his efforts to resolve a longrunning conflict with neighbouring Eritrea.

In just over a year, the climate activist, who suffers from a form of autism called Asperger's, has become the voice of a generation haunted by the climate crisis. She began her "School Strike for the Climate" outside the Swedish parliament in August 2018, and has since inspired and mobilised millions of young people to get involved.

The

residents to evacuate or return to their homes. The fire is the most dangerous of dozens of blazes burn-

-AP

PERILS OF I PLASTIC The city's air quality has been ranked one of the worst in the world, says activist Bangladesh capital awash with plastic-coated posters

Dhaka, Jan. 31: Dhaka is awash with millions of plastic-laminated campaign posters ahead of elections in the Bangladeshi capital, and environmentalists are up in arms.

nment Movement, a cam-paign group. Each con-tains about two grammes of polypropylene plastic, according to the Enviro-These posters — of which there are an estimated 304 million — will nment and Social Develikely end up in sewers, lopment (ESDO). rivers and canals, says activist Sharif Jamil. "If they are burnt, they will pollute the air," he adds. Hossain Shahriar said the plastics biodegradable and nonrecyclable. "We will be choking The city's air quality has been ranked one of the

worst in the world. "The posters will take 400 years We will be choking under these plastics to decompose," says Jamil, since we don't have who is general secretary of proper recycling mechathe Bangladesh Environisms in the city

— SHARIF JAMIL General secretary of the Bangladesh Environment Movement

under these plastics since we don't have proper recy-cling mechanisms in the he said. Bangladesh's High Court last week ordered a halt to the pro-

duction, display and dis-posal of plastic-laminated posters for the mayoral and council elections, which take place on Saturday.

But to no avail. Blackand-white posters continue to festoon the streets and parks of the congested, cacophonous metropolis of 18 million people. Manjur Hossain, head of Dhaka City Corporation's waste management department, said they would deal with the waste after the polls. -AFP



Bangladesh **High Court** has ordered a halt to the production, display and disposal of plastic-laminated posters for the mayoral and council elections. -AFP

were

Organisation

Spokesman

non-

FINANCA I < E Chronicle



GM revives Hummer as electric vehicle

It's official: General Motors confirmed its plan to reboot the Hummer—a militarystyle behemoth once seen as



a symbol of American excess-in an all-electric version. GM will unveil the revamped GMC Hummer EV in an ad during Sunday's Super Bowl game, reviving the a vehichle launched in the 1990s but phased out after the 2008 financial crisis.

SATURDAY | 1 FEBRUARY 2020 | HYDERABAD



	ΔΤΟ	

INDIGATU	/0	
Sensex	40723.49	-0.47
Nifty 50	11962.10	-0.61
S&P 500*	3,245.99	-1.15
Dollar (₹)	71.49	-0.01
Pound Sterling (₹)	92.71	-0.14
Euro (₹)	78.42	-0.25
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	41,453 ▼ 131	0.31
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	58.04	-0.25
IN 10-Yr bond yield	6.599	+0.041
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	1.549	-0.00
* As of 9:30 pm IST		

US economic growth slows to 2.3% in 2019

The US economy in 2019 expanded by the slowest rate since President Donald Trump took office as worsening trade friction undermined investment and exports. According to the government's initial estimate the \$21-trillion economy grew by 2.3 per cent compared to 2018, far below Trump's prom-ised target of 3 per cent or higher.

Neemuchwala to step down as Wirpo CEO



Wipro said its CEO Abidali Z Neemuchwala has decided to step down, and the company's board has started scout

■ Invisible hand of market, trust can create wealth **Wealth creation** takes centre stage

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, JAN. 31

Placing wealth creation as its central theme, the Economic Survey of 2019-20 lauded the role played by the country's top entrepreneurs in creating wealth that benefit the masses. The survey says a combination of the invisible hand of the market, supported by

trust, creates wealth. Picking up relevant points from Arthashastra and Thirukkural and reminiscing the centuries-old economic dominance of the country, K. Subramanian, Chief Economic Advisor to the Government of India, batted for more economic freedom.

"We looked at the top

100 entrepreneurs meas-

ured using the Forbes list, looked at the wealth

they created in the last 10

years, applied necessary

filters to ensure the wealth was created in the

right way and co-related it with various other

aspects of the society and

found that the wealth

benefitted the employees and their suppliers," he said. He finds that citi-

direct taxes and indirect

taxes paid by these entre-

India's aspiration to

become a \$5 trillion econ-

omy depends critically

on strengthening the invisible hand of mar-

kets together with the

hand of trust that can

The survey found that

zens

preneurs.

benefit from the



K. Subramanian

support markets. The invisible hand needs to be strengthened by pro-moting pro-business policies to provide equal opportunities for new entrepreneurs, removing anachronic government intervention, supporting job creation by 'Assembling in India for the world' and improving Ease of doing business. Scaling the banking sector proportionately to the size of the Indian economy will also help in creation of wealth.

The survey advocated freeing up of the economy and compared the growth of the economy pre- and post-liberaliza-Several sectors, tion. including banking and mutual funds, have benefitted after they were opened up for private players.

Creative destruction gathers speed after liberalisation

A third of Sensex firms gets out of index every five years

FALAKNAAZ SYED MUMBAI, JAN. 31

The Economic Survey said India's aspiration to become a \$5 trillion economy depends critically on promoting "probusiness" policy that unleashes the power of competitive markets to generate wealth and weaning away from "pro-crony" policy that may favour specific private interests, especially powerful incumbents, on the other hand. The economic events since 1991 provide powerful evidence supporting this crucial distinction. Viewed from the lens of

the stock market, which captures the pulse of any economy, creative destruction has increased significantly after reform. Before liberalisation, a Sensex firm expected to stay in it for 60 years, which decreased to only 12 years after liberalisation. Every five years, one-third of Sensex firms are churned out, reflecting the continuous influx of new firms, products and technologies into the economy.

Despite impressive progress in enabling competitive markets, pro-crony capitalism has destroyed value in the economy. For example, an equity index of connected firms (companies with political dependence and connectivity) significantly 'outper-formed' the market by 7 per cent a year from 2007 to 2010, reflecting abnormal profits extracted at common citizens' expense. In contrast, the index 'underperforms' the market by 7.5 per cent from 2011 (when the CAG audit report on 2G spectrum allocation named private compa-nies that benefited from the collusion), reflecting the inefficiency and value destruction inherent in such firms. Giving a political colour to the data, the survey said, "pro-crony

policies as reflected in discretionary allocation of natural resources till 2011 led to rent-seeking by beneficiaries while competitive allocation of the same resources post 2014 have put an end to such rent extraction.



'Assemble in India'

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, JAN. 31

The survey wants India to go the China way by focusing on labour-intensive sectors and export of network products. With 'Make in India' slogan making not much difference to the economic growth, the survey wants to integrate Assemble in India' to it. However, industry says mere assembling will not provide competitive advan-tage in the global market.

Taking the Chinese model that created 70 million jobs in the five-year period of 2001-2006, the survey said India should specialise in labour-intensive activities. Two groups of industries hold the greatest potential for export growth and job creation.

First, is the unexploited export potential in traditional unskilled labourintensive industries such

FROM THE SURVEY Most trade pacts have no

effect on exports

A majority of trade agreements being imple-mented by India have had "no effect" on the coun-try's overall merchandise exports. The survey said products manufactured in India have clearly benefitted from eight out of the 14 trade agreements considered in the survey. Exports of manufactured goods from India has benefitted from trade agree-ments with Mercosur, Asean, Nepal, Singapore, Chile, Bhutan, Afghanistan and Japan.

GDP growth figures not over or under estimated

India's GDP growth is neither overestimated nor underestimated and the concerns on data are "unfounded", the survey said. "Concerns of overestimation of India's GDP are unfounded,"it said, giving various reasons. Recently, Arvind Subramanian, former chief economic adviser, had said India's economic growth rate has been overesti-mated by around 2.5 percentage points between 2011-12 and 2016-17 due to a change in methodology for calculating GDP.

Infra needs \$1.4 trillion during FY20-25

To achieve the \$5 trillion economy, India needs to spend \$1.4 trillion on the infrastructure sector. India needs to spend about \$1.4 trillion (Rs 100 lakh crore) over these years on infrastructure so that lack of infrastructure does not become a constraint to the growth of Indian economy. The highways sector alone needs Rs 19.63 lakh crore investment.

Health Score for NBFCs & HFCs

Chuck Essential Commodities Act Pvt placements

textiles, clothing footwear and toys. Second, is India's potential to emerge as a major hub for final assembly in a range of products, referred to as network products.

Network products are

mainly six segments,

including telecom equip-

ments, mobile phones and photographic machinery.

The global market of these

products would be \$7 tril-

lion by 2025. To tap this market, India will have to

integrate "Assemble in India for the world" into Make in India'.

However, industry is not so optimistic. "We do not

have a component ecosys-

tem in India. What is hap-pening now is merely get-

ting components from out-

side and assembling them

and this will not give us a

competitive advantage in the global market," said

Kamal Nandi, president,

under ECA were conduct-

ed during 2019. Assuming

a minimum of five per-

sons involved in a raid

considerable administra-

tive effort goes into enforcement of ECA. As

the conviction rate, howev-

er, is abysmally low and

raids have no impact on

prices, the ECA only seems

to enable rent-seeking and

harassment. The Act is

anachronistic as it was

passed in 1955 in an India

worried about famines and

shortages; it is irrelevant

in today's India and must

Similarly the regulation

of prices of drugs in 2013

though drug prices control

order has led to increase in

been drawn on the basis

of an attempt to quantify

what a common person

pays for a Thali, which

includes cereals, pulses,

vegetables and spices.

Price data from the

Consumer Price Index

for industrial workers for

around 80 centres in 25

states and UTs from April

2006 to October 2019 has

The survey has consid-

ered 2015-16 as a year

when there was a shift in

the dynamics of Thali

been used for the study.

be jettisoned.

CEAMA.

become

"Around

ing for his successor. Neemuchwala, 52, took over the additional role of MD in July 31. His term as CEO was to end in 2021. Neemuchwala had joined Wipro in 2015 as group president and COO after a 23-year term at TCS

HUL shuffles top deck, elevates Narasimhan

HUL appointed Prabha Narasimhan as executive director of its Home Care segment as part of a top level reshuffle. She would replace Priva Nair. ED-Home Care, who moved as ED-Beauty and Personal Care. Nair will take over from Sandeep Kohli, who will relocate to Dubai. Nair will stay in the HUL Management Committee and Narasimhan will join it from Feb. 1.

ITI extends public issue period again

State-owned ITI extended the issue period for its ongoing follow-on public offer (FPO) by four working days till February 5 following lukewarm response from investors. This is the second time the company has extended its issue period. Prior to this, the company, on Jan. 28, extended the issue period by three days till Jan. 31. Also, it had reduced the price band to Rs 71-77 per share.

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FALAKNAAZ SYED MUMBAI, JAN. 31

The Economic Survey 2019-20 on Friday unveiled a dynamic health index (Health Score) developed for housing finance companies (HFCs) and retail nonbanking finance companies (NBFCs) to detect early-warning signals of impending liquidity problems facing the companies in the sectors. The survey suggested that policymakers and other stakeholders should use the Health Score as a valuable tool to introduce corrective measures address to financial unfavourable trends in a timely manner. "A dynamic health index (Health Score) is constructed that captures these risks and can be used as an early warning system to anticipate liquidity crisis in an NBFC. Policy makers can

regulate and avert finan-cial fragility in the NBFC sector." said the survey. It said the Health Score is based on the rollover risk, which includes asset liability management risk, interconnectedness risk and financial and operating resilience of an NBFC. The survey's analysis shows the Health Score for the HFC sector exhibited a declining trend after 2014. By the end of 2018-19, the health of the overall sector worsened considerhad ably. Similarly, the Health Score of the retail NBFC sector was consistently below par for the period between 2014 and 2019. Following

payment defaults by subsidiaries of IL&FS and by DHFL, investors in liquid debt mutual funds (LDMFs) ran collectively to redeem their investments. In fact, the

remaining

an all-stock deal.

On Friday, IBREL board

approved a proposal to

merge 12-13 ongoing, com-

pleted and planned resi-

dential and commercial

projects, each being held by it as well as the

Embassy Group, into a new entity yet to be named,

On completion of the merger, the Embassy Group will hold control-

ling stake in the merged

entity, while the American

private equity (PE) major

Blackstone will be the sec-

IBREL sources said.

use this tool to monitor, defaults triggered panic across the entire gamut of NBFC-financiers, causing a funding (liquidity) crisis in the NBFC sector.

The problems stemmed from the NBFCs overdependence on short-term wholesale funding from the LDMFs.

"While such reliance works well in good times, it generates significant risk to NBFCs from the inability to roll over the shortterm funding during times of stress. An asset-side shock not only exacerbates Asset Liability Management problem but also makes investors in LDMFs jittery and thereby leads to a redemption pressure that is akin to a "bank run." This run on LDMFs then precipitates the refinancing (rollover) risk for NBFCs and further exacerbates the initial problems," said the survey

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD MUMBAI, JAN 31

The Economic Survey has argued for doing away with Essential Commod-ities Act (ECA) and such other government interventions that hurt more than they help.

The case has been argued in the backdrop of soaring onion prices that have caused much heartburn to the common man. Interventions that were apt in a different economic setting may have lost their relevance in a transformed economy. Eliminating instances of such needless government intervention

will enable competitive markets and thereby spur investments and economic growth, the survey said. Each department and

ministry in the government must systematically

examine areas where the government needlessly intervenes and undermines markets.

'Frequent and unpreimposition of dictable blanket stock limits on commodities under Essential Commodities Act (ECA) neither brings down prices nor reduces price volatility. However, such intervention does enable opportunities for rentseeking and harassment," said the survey. "For instance, imposition of stock limits on dal in 2006-Q3, sugar in 2009-Q1 and onions in September 2019 spiked up the volatility of the wholesale and retail of instead prices smoothening them —in contrast to its objective of easing pressure on prices.

the price of a regulated As implementing ECA pharmaceutical drug vis-aalso involved significant vis that of a similar drug administrative effort and whose price, it said.

edge out did not bring results, it had public issues irrelevant. 76,000 raids

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD IUMBAI, JAN. 31

Indian companies raised more money through pri-vate placements than through public issues in equity and debt market in FY19-20, a year when benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty-50 gained close to 8 per cent and touched record highs, according to the Economic Survey.

Corporates preferred private placement to raise capital and Rs 6.29 lakh crore was raised through 1,520 issues in April-December 2019 through this route, compared to Rs 5.3 lakh crore through 2,006 issues in the same period in 2018.

As many as 225 issues raised Rs 1.79 lakh crore through private placement of equity securities up to December 2019. Out of this nine were qualified institutional placement allotments and 216, preferential allotments, which raised Rs 34,029 crore and Rs 1.45 lakh crore, each.

Resource mobilisation through issuance of debt securities to public declined significantly, with Rs 11,746 crore was raised through 27 issues during Apr.-Dec. 2019 compared to Rs 28,565 crore raised through 15 issues in the year-ago period.

The total money raised by public and rights issues rose to Rs 73,896 crore during the peiord from Rs 44,355 crore.

The resource mobilisation through public issue of equity decreased in 2019, with 47 companies mobilising Rs 10,895 crore compared with 103 companies raising Rs 13,947 crore in Apr.-Dec. 2018, a dip of 21.9 per cent. However, mobilisation through rights issues (equity) increased sharply with Rs 51,255 crore raised against Rs 1,843 crore.

Q3 RESULTS SBI Net profit: Rs 5,583 cr Vs Rs 3955 cr, up 41% NII:-up 22.42% Vs 12.92% Domestic NIM: 3.59%, up 62 hns Gross NPA: 6.94%, down 177

bps Net NPA: 2.65%, down 130 bps

PCR: 81.73%, up 710 bps

HUL

- Net profit: Rs 1,631 cr Vs Rs 1,444 cr, up 12.95% Net sales: Rs 9,953 cr Vs
- Rs 9,582 cr, up 3.87%
- Domestic consumer growth, up 4% Underlying Volume growth:

up 5%

ITC Cons. net profit: Rs 4,047.87 cr Vs Rs 3,136.95 cr, up 29.03%

Net sales: Rs 13,220.30 cr Vs Rs 12,506.05 cr, up 5.71% Total expenses: Rs 8,779.14 cr Vs Rs 8,340.61 cr, up 5.25%

+

INDIABULLS SET TO EXIT REALTY SPACE

Mumbai, Jan 31: As part ond largest shareholder of its move to exit the realalong with REITs (Real ty sector, Indiabulls Group Estate Investment Trust) will merge over dozen unit holders. and Indiabulls Group chairassets of Indiabulls Real Estate man Sameer Gehlaut will (IBREL) with a new entity hold a minority stake, the that will be led by Embassy sources said. Group and Blackstone in

The value of the 12-13 properties being merged into the new entity is around Rs 12,000 crore, the sources added.

Indiabulls' bid to exit the realty space got a momentum last April after it entered into an agreement to takeover Laxmi Vilas Bank, but the Reserve Bank refused the deal citing the group's exposure to the realty sector.

In the past two years, IBREL has sold commercial assets to Blackstone for around Rs 12,250 crore -PTi

Looking into the thali, not for calories but prices

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, JAN. 31

The Economic Survey introduced a new metric for the common man-'thalinomics' or economics of a plate of food-to guage price inflation and affordability. While the Advisor Economic focused on the moderation of price of Thali since 2015-16, he overlooked the fact that the price has picked up pace

in 2019-20 with the upward movement in Consumer Price Index. The survey found that the price of veg thalis have improved 29 per cent from 2006-07 to 2019-20 and that of non-vegetarian Thalis by 18 per cent. As a result, an aver-



age household of five individuals that eats two vegetarian Thalis a day. gained around Rs 10.887. on average per year, while a non-vegetarian household gained Rs 11,787. The Economic Advisor also mentioned that the affordability of the common man has improved since 2006-07. The conclusion has

in 2019.

























Batting for cause

West Indies legend Brian Lara joined the star-studded list of players who have confirmed their participation in the charity match organised to raise funds for Australia's bushfire victims

DECCAN CHRONICLE

SATURDAY | 1 FEBRUARY 2020 | HYDERABAD

Fames

TAKES SHORT

Hyd boys draw, women lose to AP

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JAN. 31

Hyderabad boys drew with Tamil Nadu in their South Zone Under 14 cricket tournament match played at Alur near Bengaluru on Friday. P. Raghava scored 50 and C. Siddharth Rao contributed 39 as Hyderabad were all out for 156 in reply to TN's 97 in the first innings. Tamil Nadu were 147 for 2 in their second innings when stumps were drawn. South Zone Under 14 boys tour-ney: Tamil Nadu 97 in 41.4 overs & 147/2 in 42 overs (Khush Bhardia 66 n.o, A. Siddharth 52 n.o) drew with Hyderabad 156 in 88 overs (P. Raghava 50, C. Siddharth Rao 39, Jai Simha 3 for 29. Kiran Karthikeyan 2 for 4, Neelesh B. 2 for

23). South Zone Under 16 girls tour-ney: Hyderabad 69/8 in 25 overs (A. K. Aishwarya 2 for 17, Divya Gireesh 2 for 14) lost to Kerala 70/2 in 21.4 Women's Under 23: Hyderabad 147/9 in 50 overs (G. Trisha 42, Anuradha Nayak 36, K. Anjali Sravani 2 for 29, Jhansi Lakshmi 4 for 22) lost to Andhra 149/4 in 37.3 overs (M. Durga 53, C. H. Jhansi Laxmi 67, G. Trisha 2 for 24).

Zimbabwe players to take pay cuts

Harare: Zimbabwe's cricketers are set to have their salaries cut as their national board continues to face financial troubles. Zimbabwe Cricket chairman Tavengwa Mukuhlani said this week during the second test against Sri Lanka that "soon it will be necessary to cut back" and reducing players' salaries are part of the process. Mukuhlani didn't give exact figures of how much salaries would be reduced by as that decision would be made by the Zimbabwe Cricket board. But players had been informed there would be cuts. "It's an ongoing process," Mukuhlani said. "But yes, we will have to cut back. It can't be business as usual. Obviously it's a bit of a touchy subject. But I will assume that everyone will accept it," he added. — AP

Aussie colts to face sanctions

Melbourne: Cricket Australia is considering sanctions and "cultural sensitivity training" for members of its men's U-19 squad over social media comments seen as mocking non-English speakers. The governing body said it was "extremely disappointed" by the incident during the ongoing World Cup in South Africa, which it reported to the International Cricket Council. The fallout followed batsman Jake Fraser-McGurk posting "Quarter-final here we come" on Instagram ahead of their clash with India on Tuesday, with several teammates including Oliver Davies and Liam Scott replying in language interpreted as mocking non-native English speakers. Cricket Australia's head of integrity and security Sean Carroll said the "inappropriate language" was not acceptable. 'Some of that language could be interpreted as ridiculing non-native English language speakers," he said in a statement late Thursday. - AFP

Supernatural

New Zealand lose yet another Super Over thriller as Kohli & Co. make it 4-0 with win at Wellington

Bennett 4-0-41-2, Sodhi 4-0-26-3

New Zealand: Martin Guptill c Rahul b Bumrah 4, Colin Munro run

out (Thakur/Kohli) 64, Tim Seifert run out (Rahul) 57, Tom

Bruce b Chahal O, Ross Taylor c Shreyas Iyer b SN Thakur 24, Daryl Mitchell c Shivam Dube b SN Thakur 4, Mitchell Santner run out (Samson/Rahul) 2, Scott Kuggeleijn (not

out) O. Extras (lb 7,w 3) 10. Total (for seven wickets in

FoW: 1-22, 2-96, 3-97, 4-159, 5-163, 6-164, 7-165. **Bowling:** Thakur 4-0-33-2, Saini 4-0-29-0, Bumrah 4-0-20-1, Chahal 4-0-38-1, Sundar 2-0-24-0, Dube 2-

SCORE**CARD**

20 overs) 165.

0-14-0.

Wellington, Jan. 31: A nervous New Zealand threw it away yet again as a perseverant India pre-India: Lokesh Rahul c Santner b Ish Sodhi 39, Sanju Samson c Santner b Kuggeleijn 8, Virat Kohli c Santner b Bennett 11, Shreyas vailed in the Super Over for the second successive time to take a 4-0 lyer c Seifert b Ish Sodhi 1, Shivam Dube c Tom Bruce b Ish Sodhi lead in the T20 International series 2, Manish Pandey (not out) 50, Washington Sundar b Santner 0, Shardul Thakur c Southee b Bennett 20, Yuzvendra Chahal c Seifert b Southee 1, Navdeep Saini (not out) 11. Extras (b 2, lb 3, w 6, nb 1)
12. Total (for eight wickets in 20 overs) 165.
FoW: 1-14, 2-48, 3-52, 4-75, 5-84, 6-88, 7-131, 8-143.
Bowling: Southee 4-0-28-1, Kuggeleijn 4-0-39-1, Santner 4-0-26-1,

here on Friday. Needing just 11 runs off the last two overs with seven wickets in hand, New Zealand dug a hole for themselves yet again, taking the game to a Super Over two nights after doing the same in Hamilton. New Zealand managed 13 runs in six balls and India got there effortlessly.

"What's happened in last two T20 games is unbelievable ... We are very proud of how we went about our business today," said India cap-tain Virat Kohli, who struck the winning four in the game.

KL Rahul smashed 10 runs off the first two balls before he was caught. Then, a fired-up Kohli and Sanju Samson finished the game in

style. "It is very tough. To get ourselves into the position we got today and then give them a chance... India grabbed it with both hands," said New Zealand stand-in skipper Tim Southee, who delivered the Super Over for his side.

This was after New Zealand won a fourth consecutive toss and opted to field. Their regular captain Kane Williamson didn't take part in the match owing to a shoulder niggle. The Indians weren't off to

great start but Manish Pandey proved his value to the team with an unbeaten



'UNLUCKY'

50 off 35 balls, taking the visitors to 165 for eight from 88 for six in the 12th over.

India's total wasn't enough considering the batting-friendly conditions but the hosts made life a lot tougher for themselves from a commanding position before succumb-

The entertaining knocks from Colin Munro (64 off 47) and Time Seifert went in vain (57 off 39). Mohammed Shami, who was rested on Friday, had bowled a brilliant 20th over on Wednesday and man of the match Shardul Thakur was up to the task this time, conceding just six runs when the opposition

with the series already in the bag, India gave opportunity to Sanju Samson, Washington Sundar and Navdeep Saini for the first time in the five-match series, resting Rohit Sharma, Ravindra Jadeja and Shami. However, none of them was

able to make an impact in the game. Chasing 165, New

Zealand lost Martin Guptill early. But Munro and Seifert put on 74 runs for the second wicket to put themselves on track.

Munro scored a half-century of 38 deliveries, inclusive of six fours and three sixes. He was out against the run of play as Kohli's direct hit surprisingly found the target after a relay throw from the deep.

It was the turning point as New Zealand lost regular wickets. Yuzvendra Chahal bowled Tom Bruce (0), but Seifert found a partner in Ross Taylor as they pushed the score past 150 in the 18th over. Seifert scored a half-century off 32 balls, including four fours and three sixes. But the great choke was yet to come again.

Needing 18 off 18, the Black Caps lost four wickets in the last over bowled by Thakur. Taylor holed out of the first ball, while Seifert

was run out two balls later. Daryl Mitchell (4) was caught next and Mitchell Santner (2) couldn't steal two runs off the last ball as the sides engaged in a tiebreaker for the second game running. Put in to bat, the visitors were struggling at 88-6 at one stage before Pandey's lonesome rescue act took them to a respectable total. Rahul contributed 39 runs off 26 balls, inclusive of three sixes and two fours. Leg spinner Ish Sodhi got into the act and ran through India's batting order.

-PTI

Super Overs have taught me to stay calm, says Kohli

Madan Lal, RP, Sulakshana on advisory panel

PAGE

New Delhi, Jan. 31: Former India cricketers Rudra Pratap Singh, Madan Lal and Sulkashana Naik were on Friday appointed members of the Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC) by the BCCI. The CAC's immediate task will be to pick replacements for outgoing selectors MSK Prasad and Gagan Khoda. "The term of appoint-ment will be for one year," BCCI Secretary Jay Shah said in a statement. The CAC, which is also sup-

posed to pick the head coaches for the national teams, was not in existence ever since Kapil Dev, Anshuman Gaekwad and Shantha Rangaswamy stepped down in October last year after conflict of interest allega-tions were levelled against them.

Initially, Gautam Gambhir was to be one of the CAC members but was not eventually considered as he is a serving Member of Parliament, making way for Singh. The 34-year-old from UP is the youngest CAC member. Lal is 68 and Naik is 41. - PTI

Harman leads India to victory

Canberra, Jan. 31: Skipper Harmanpreet Kaur struck an unbeaten 42 following a fine bowling performance to set up India's thrilling five-wicket win over England in the first match of the women's triangular T20 series here on Friday.

Indian spinners — Rajeshwari Gayakwad (2/19), Deepti Sharma (2/30)and left armer Radha Yadav (1/33) — restricted England to 147 for seven in stip-ulated 20 overs, while medium pacer Shikha Pandey accounted for two at the Manuka Oval.

Harmanpreet took the run chase deep after the Indian top order, including Shafali Verma, Smriti Mandhana and Jemimah Rodrigues — squandered good starts. With six needed off the last over, Harmanpreet, whose innings was studded with five boundaries until then, hit a towering six to take India to 150 for five and end the match in style with three balls to spare. -PTIBrief scores: England 147/7 in 20 overs (Heather Knight 67, Tammy Beaumont 37; Rajeshwari Gayakwad 2/19) lost to India 150/5 in 19.3 overs (Harmapreet Kaur 42 not out, Shafali Verma 30; Katherine Brunt 2/33).

PAK BEAT AFGHANS, TO MEET INDIA

Benoni, South Africa: A halfcentury from opener Muhammad Huraira on debut and a fine bowling performance powered Pakistan to a six-wicket win over Afghanistan in the ICC U-19 World Cup here on Friday, setting up an exciting semifinal against arch-rivals India.

Afghanistan fought hard after posting 189 but just did not have enough runs on the board. Huraira, playing his first game of the tournament, struck a match-winning knock in the fourth quarterfinal. Qasim Akram (25 not out off 41 balls) and Mohammad Haris (29 not out off 43) saw the team through in just 41.1 overs. Tahir Hussain (1/28 in 10 overs), Fahad Munir (2/29 in 7) and Mohammad Amir Khan (3/58 in 10) were the pick of the Pakistan bowlers. Defending champions India and Pakistan play their semifinal in Potchefstroom on February 4. **BRIEF SCORES** Afghanistan 189 in 50 overs

(Farhan Zakhil 40, Abdul Rahman 30; Mohammad Amir Khan 3/58, Fahad Munir 2/29) lost to Pakistan 190/4 in 41.1 overs (Mohammad Huraira 64; Noor Ahmad 2/32).



winning runs in the

Super Over.

Wellington, Jan. 31: India cap- time proves the character of the tain Virat Kohli on Friday said he has learnt an important lesson in the back-to-back Super Over finishes against New Zealand: To "stay calm till the end" and bounce back when the opportunity arises. A nervous New Zealand threw it away yet again as a perseverant India prevailed in the Super Over for the second successive time to take a 4-0 lead in the five-match T20 International series

There's something new I've learnt in the last couple of games: when the opposition is playing well, you stay calm till the end and try to come back," Kohli said.

The India skipper said having come out victorious in consecutive two Super Overs for the first

team. "We couldn't have asked for more exciting games, we've never played Super Overs before and now we've won two. It shows the character of the team," Kohli said. Although Sanju Samson didn't make any significant contribution in the match, Kohli said he initially thought of sending the Kerala batsman in the Super Over along side K. L. Rahul but eventually changed his mind.

'Initially we thought of opening with Samson and K. L. in the Super Over, but then K. L. told me I should bat because of the experience and the options I'll bring. His (Rahul's) two strikes were crucial and then you knock the ball into the gap and take your team over the line. Sanju was fearless at the top of the order. He tried to take the momentum away, he should back himself," he said.

Manish Pandey plays a shot on way to his unbeaten half-century during the fourth **T20I** against New Zealand on Friday

	TIM SOUTHEE IN SUPER OVERS				
Runs	Opponents	Venue	Year	Result	
25	West Indies	Auckland	2008	Lost	
6	Australia	Christchurch	2010	Won	
13	Sri Lanka	Pallekele	2012	Lost	
19	West Indies	Pallekele	2012	Lost	
17	England	Auckland	2019	Lost	
20	India	Hamilton	2020	Lost	
16	India	Wellington	2020	Lost	
Stats: S. Pervez Oaiser					

Croatian coach for city clinic Abid, Shafath big shots DC CORRESPONDENT

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, JAN. 31

Academia Sports Village, a Hyderabad-based multiple sports promoter, has joined hands with prominent A-grade Croatian tennis coach Duje Tomasovic for a high-voltage international summer camp to be organised at the end of Moreh

March. The camp will be held at the ultra-modern tennis courts housed within the Hyderabad Polo and Riding Club (HPRC) complex at Aziz Nagar on the outskirts of Hyderabad. Meanwhile, a two-day interaction session and fitness programme for children and parents with Tomasovic will be held on February 1 and 2 at the HPRC, Sports Village CFO Durdana Arshi said.

Tomasovic has mentored some of the finest international stars from Tomasovic Croatia and is the head



Duje Tomasovic (left) speaks as Turkey Consul General Adnan Altay Altinors (second from left), Sports Village CEO Md Shamsuddin and CFO Durdana Arshi look on.

coach of Tenis Klub Split from where players like Goran Ivanisevic, Mario Nikola Pilic, Ancic, Jelena Kostanic and ing that suits them well. Petra Martic rose to fame. Consul General of is the best to start tennis. Turkey Dr Adnan Altay India is a much bigger appreciated Village CEC country than Croatia. Altinors CEO There is plenty of talent Sports Mohammad Shamsuddin here. I am looking forfor his efforts bring in the ward to educating players and coaches — I know a lot of ways to help them. best of coaches for training camps in Hyderabad They will see tennis in a and hoped the youngsters would benefit from them. different way I promise,' Speaking at the event, he said, adding that the said he doors of Tenis Klub at



intends to put in place an Split in Croatia would organised system where always be open to youngplayers will be able to sters of Academia Sports choose the mode of train-Village for an exchange programme to facilitate The age of five to seven players to push their lim-

> "Tennis is much like life, you have to make a decision before every shot you hit, and when things go wrong you need to control your emotions. More often than not a match is decided by a point or two and it's crucial to play those tough ones well," he concluded.

HYDERABAD, JAN. 31

ΔP

Abid Ali Khan and Shafath Ali Khan emerged champions in the 1st Telangana State Shooting Compe-titions in Big Bore events held at the Aman Sanghi 300m Big Bore Shooting Range at Sanghi Nagar in Ranga Reddy District on Friday.

Abid shot 289 out of 300 to take the first place in the 300m Rifle Prone (NR) men's championship ahead of Ahmed Abdul Haq Khan (287/300) and Mohammed Abdul Shahid (287/300).

Shafath Ali Khan won the 300m Rifle Prone (NR) veteran's championship with a score of 265/300. Gusti Noria took silver with 239/300 while R. Jeetender Rao was third with 201/300. Telangana Rifle Associapresident tion Amit Sanghi. vice-president Gusti Noria, organising Sohailuddin secretary Farooqui and Range Administrator, Sports



Medallists at the Telangana State Shooting in Big Bore events pose with their trophies at the Aman Sanghi Big Bore Shooting Range at Sanghi Nagar on Friday.

Authority of Telangana Haq Khan (287/300), 3. State, Alexander Francis distributed the medals and certificates.

THE RESULTS **300m Rifle Prone (NR)** Men: 1. Abid Ali Khan (289/300), 2. Ahmed Abdul



(287/300).

Mohammed Abdul Shahid

300m Rifle Prone (NR)







Uphill task Saina Nehwal (in pic) has to make it to four quarterfinals or semifinals in the next eight tournaments to make the cut for Tokyo Olympics, says husband and mentor Parupalli Kashyap



SATURDAY | 1 FEBRUARY 2020 | HYDERABAD

SHORT TAKES Niveditha out of **TT** Nationals

Hyderabad: Telangana's Niveditha Balusri put up a brave fight before going down 2-3 (7-11, 7-11, 11-7, 11-8, 11-13) to Maharashtra's Manasi Chiplunkar in the women's single round of 128 match in the UTT 81st Senior National Table Tennis Championships that got underway at the Saroonagar Indoor Stadium here on Friday. The Telangana girl gave it her all, even in the decider, she rallied from 7-10 to save a matchpoint, but the Maharashtra girl prevailed, winning it on her second match-point. Niveditha was two sets up and she also had the measure of her opponent. But the Maharashtra girl staged a fine recovery to level the score before nailing the Telangana girl in the decider. In another match, Anuska Dutta defeated Aditi Sinha 3-2. The other state girls that failed to advance are Pranitha Garlapati, V. Lassya and Nikhitha Yenibera Women's singles results (Round of 128): Garima Goyal (Del) bt Priyadarsini Das (RBI) 3-1, Shreya Despande (Rlys) bt Manisha Sharma (Raj) 3-0, Kritika Upadhaya (Asm) bt Pranitha Garlapati (TS) 3-2, Anuska Duttta (Ben 'B') bt Aditi Sinha (Mah) 3-2, N. Vidya (TNTTA) bt Anjali Rohilla (Har) 3-0, V. Kowshika (TTTA) bt K. Anitha (Ker) 3-0, Manushree Patil (Mah) bt Kausha Bhairapure (Guj) 3-0, V. Kushi (Kar) bt Iti Sharma (Raj) 3-0, Nithyashree Mani (TTTA) bt Phalgun Charvi (AP) 3-0, Sanya Sehgal (Har) bt V. Lassya (Telg) 3-1, Sataporni De (Ben 'B') bt Himani Chaturvedi (MP) 3-2, S. Sharmitha (TNTTA) bt Tamanna Saini (Del) 3-2 Mallika Gogoi (Goa) bt Sayani Bose (MCIT) 3-2, Varuni Jaiswal (TS) bt Tanushree Dasgupta (Meg) 3-1, Jasmin Sunny (Ker) bt Nikita Sarkar (Ben 'B') 3-1, Pooja Sharma (IA&AD) bt Aanchal Malhotra (Del) 3-1, Manasi Chiplunka (Mah) bt Niveditha Balusri (TS) 3-2, A. Samyuktha (Kar) bt Prasuma Parekh (TTFI) 3-0, Prajakta Tipale (LIC) bt swetapadma Dalai (Odi) 3-0, Munmun Kundu (AAI) bt Bhuwaneshwari

outlast

evening.

match, two tie-breakers,

so tough and so close. It

was almost impossible to

break him," said Thiem. Thiem had dealt with

semifinal pressure before, although always

on the slower red clay at

A jittery Thiem was broken in the opening

Roland Garros.

Rathore (Raj) 3-0, Neha Patial (Pun) bt B. Nagasravani (AP) 3-2, Vartica Bharat (P) bt Nikhitha Yenibera (TS) 3-0, Maria Rony (Kar) bi Suhana Saini (Har) 3-0, Trisha Gogoi (Asm) bi Anushree Hazra (Rlys) 3-1.

Sindhu, Saina to skip Asian event

New Delhi: India will field a fullstrength men's team at the Asia Team Championships but the women's side will be led by young shuttlers Ashmita Chaliha and Malvika Bansod after Saina Nehwal and P. V. Sindhu decided to give the continental event a miss.

THE SQUADS

Men: B. Sai Praneeth, K. Srikanth, H. S. Prannoy, Subhankar Dey, Lakshya Sen, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy, Chirag Shetty, Dhruv Kapila and M.R. Arjun. Women: Ashmita Chaliha, Aakarsh Kashyap, Malvika Bansod, Gayatri Gopichand, Ashwini Bhat, Shikha Gautam, Rutaparna Panda and K





Kristina Mladenovic (left) and Timea Babos share a light moment during the presentation ceremony after their 6-2, 6-1 win over Hsieh Su-wei and Barbora Strycova in the women's doubles final at the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne on Friday. The pair won their second title in three years. - AFP

points before sending a malfunction helped calm backhand wide to immehis nerves as he fought diately be on the back back from a set down to reach the final. Dominic Thiem said a

The Austrian fifth seed was 0-1 down in the third

ALL EYES ON MADRID DERBY

Madrid. Jan. 31 Real Madrid were supposedly in a mess last summer and Atletico Madrid about to challenge for the title but each have defied expectations ahead of their meeting at the Santiago Bernabeu on Saturday.

With Real marching to the top of Spanish League and Atletico languishing in fifth, the city derby this weekend is less a contest of rivals and more a moderately awkward assignment for the now title favourites. But Atletico will need a similar reversal of form, after four games without a win, in which they have lost to Eibar, drawn at home to Leganes now themselves last in Spanish League — and been knocked out of the Copa del Rey. In term of competitions, Real have won the Spanish Super Cup, pulled three points clear at the top of La Liga and eased into the cup quarterfinals, all without Eden Hazard. Meanwhile, Lionel Messi scored twice as Barcelona hammered Leganes 5-0 on Thursday to advance to the quarterfinals of the Copa del Rey and deliver a

much-needed boost for new coach Quique Setien. -AFP

LIVE ON: Facebook from 8.30pm

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PAGE

6





like this song. I felt like I was in Austria on skiing holidays, because that's where they play that song all the time. That loosened me up a bit - DOMINIC THIEM on the song Sweet Caroline helping him unwind in the semifina

> when the semifinal was halted for nine minutes to fix a light which had gone out behind the baseline. But Thiem said the Neil Diamond classic, played to entertain the crowd during the delay, reminded him of good times on skiing holidays with friends.

"I like this song. I felt like I was in Austria on skiing holidays, because that's where they play that song all the time. That loosened me up a bit," Thiem said.

Once play resumed, Thiem went on to win the third and fourth sets and with it the match. -AFP

THE RESULTS

Men's singles semifinal: Dominic Thiem (Austria x5) bt Alexander Zverev (Germany x7) 3-6, 6-4, 7-6 (3), 7-6 (4). Women's doubles final:

Kristina Mladenovic/ Timea

Babos (France/ Hungary

x2) bt Barbora Strycova/

Su-wei

Republic/ Chinese Taipei

(Czech

Hsieh

foot.







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