

IN BRIEF

9 HURT AS FOB AT BHOPAL RLY STN COLLAPSES

DC CORRESPONDENT BHOPAL, FEB. 13

Nine people including a woman were on Thursday injured when part of foot over bridge (FOB) in Bhopal railway station collapsed.

The incident took place on platform number two and three.

One of the injured was stated to be critical, a railway spokesman said.

"Nine people were injured in the incident. We will investi-gate the matter and fix accountability on the people responsible for it," railway PRO I.A. Siddique said.

The victims were mostly passengers who were standing under the ill-fated foot over bridge, Siddique added.

Maoists run weapon making units in Bastar

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC BHOPAL, FEB. 13

encounters.

the jungles. "A gun mak-ing factory has been bust-ed in Irapalli. Tools used for making bullets for var-Maoists' weapon manufacious firearms and rockets turing units Chhattisgarh's for Under Barrel Grenade in Bastar Launchers (UBGL) has region are making rockets and bullets from the empty shells left behind by security forces after

been seized. Many empty cartridge and rocket shells have been found at the site. Besides pipes and tools for A weapon manufacturmaking guns, improvised ing unit busted by the 204 explosive devices (IEDs) COBRA (commando batand mortar bombs have also been seized at the encounter site", a senior CRPF officer posted in talion for resolute action) battalion personnel at Irapalli in Chhattisgarh's south Bastar district of Raipur in Chĥattisgarh Bijapur three days ago has told this newspaper on

brought to light the skill Thursday. acquired by Naxals to make firearm ammuni-disclosure that Maoists tions in their 'factories' in used to collect the empty

shells of firearm ammuni-tions and rockets left behind by security forces after the encounters to reuse them by filling them up with explosives and other materials, the officer said unwilling to be

quoted. Naxals have filled their armory by looting firearms such as AK 47 looting and Insas assault rifles and UBGLs from security forces in the encounters with them.

They used to depend on their weapon supply chain to procure ammunitions and rockets. However, the supply chains often used to be busted by security forces putting Naxals under pressure. Irapalli.

Two Cobra commandos were martyred and five others injured in the encounter with armed Maoists at Irapalli, consid-ered the bastion of Maoists' battalion number one, on February 10.

Body of a Maoist identi-fied as Madvi Hunga, body guard of Sonu who commanded company number one of CPI (Maoist), was recovered at the encounter site. The counterinsurgency operation was launched by Cobra following commandos intelligence tip off on gathering of large number of armed Naxals including battalion number one commander Hidma in AKSHAYA KUMAR SAHOO | DC BHUBANESWAR, FEB. 13 February 4

In December 2019, President Ram Nath Kovind had a pleasant experience while attend-ing the plating the plating the ing the platinum jubilee celebrations of Utkal University in Bhubaneswar. He could recognise his long-time friend Birabhadra Singh sitting quietly in the audience.

He asked his officers to arrange a meeting post the celebrations.

During the meeting that lasted for 30 minutes, the President had invited Singh to Rashtrapati Bhawan. Kovind kept his word

and played host to Singh

and family who visited the Rashtrapati Bhawan on

Singh's happiness knew no boundaries when he narrated his feelings to mediapersons here on Thursday about his recent meeting with Kovind which lasted over 30 minutes.

Prez keeps word, meets

old friend and his family

Singh said President Kovind told my children that "I know your father and recognised him from his 'Pagdi' at Utkal University, Bhubaneswar. I knew him (Singh) by heart since the time we were together."

Birabhadra Singh and Kovind were Rajya Sabha members from 2001 to 2005. It was during the valedictory session of Utkal University plat-

inum jubilee celebrations in December last year that the President met Singh

after 12 years. Though Singh then had expressed desire to meet Kovind much before his arrival and approached the President's security officers to allow him to offer a rose, his request was turned down due to

security reasons. However, Singh's dream came true when President himself recognised him sitting in the audience and immediately asked his officers to arrange a

meeting. "I told him that his decision to meet me was appreciated by media which termed the friendship to be that of 'Krishna and Sudama'," said Singh.



Presents

ELECTRONICS





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BN REDDY NAGAR	LAKDI-KA-POOL	 SHAMSHABAD 	RAJAHMUNDRY
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CHANDA NAGAR	MADINAGUDA	SUN CITY	VUAYAWADA-1
CHINTAL	MALAKPET	 TOLICHOWKI 	BENZ CIRCLE
DILSUKHNAGAR	MIYAPUR	 VANASTHALIPURAM 	 VIJAYAWADA-2
• ECIL	NACHARAM	TELANGANA	ELURU ROAD
FORUM MALL	NAGOLE	 KARIMNAGAR 	• VIZAG-1
GACHIBOWLI	NALLAKUNTA	KHAMMAM	DIAMOND PARK
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SHORT TAKES

Grave issues on criminalisation of politics in India

From Page 1

The SC verdict on ensuring parties disclose criminal antecedents of candidates comes in the wake of contempt petitions filed by lawyer and BJP leader Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay and others, drawing the court's attention towards the non-compliance of its directions on September 25, 2018

The court noted that the contempt petition raises "grave issues regarding the criminal-

isation of politics in India". Exercising its powers under Articles 129 and 142 of the Constitution, the court mandated political parties to give reasons for selecting candidates with pending criminal cases and why others "without criminal antecedents could not be selected as candidates" Speaking for the bench, that also comprised Justices S. Ravindra Bhat and M. Ramasubramanian, and referring to the documents placed before the court and submissions by lawyers, Justice Nariman said over the past four general elections, there was an "alarming increase" in the incidence of criminals in

From 2004 onwards, the per-centage of MPs facing nonserious criminal charges have been between 12 per cent to 15 per cent, with 14 per cent of MPs in the 17th Lok Sabha facing such charges.

However, a look at the per-centage of MPs facing serious charges shows that the number goes up with every general election.

A five-judge Constitution Bench headed by then Chief Justice Dipak Misra (since retired) had directed political parties to publicise the criminal record of the candidates fielded by them so that people could make an informed choice while exercising their franchise.

While directing political par-ties to give wide publicity about the criminal antecedents of the candidate being fielded by them, by post-ing these on their website, through the print and electronic, media, the court had said the time has come for Parliament to to enact a law to cleanse the polluted stream of politics by prohibiting people with criminal antecedents in the political system.

Observing that the "nation eagerly waits for such legisla-tion" to curb the entry of politicians with criminal antecedents, the court had said in 2018 "the sooner the better, before it becomes fatal

Coronavirus scare: 2 passengers isolated

2,51,447 persons screened so far for the virus: Centre

DC CORRESPONDENT with agency inputs NEW DELHI, FEB. 13

One passenger on board SpiceJet Bangkok-Delhi flight was quarantined at Delhi while two passengers, who arrived at Kolkata from Bangkok, have been placed in isolation for suspected novel coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms.

"On February 13, 2020, a passenger travelling on SpiceJet flight SG-88 operating between Bangkok and Delhi was suspected of coronavirus infection. He was on seat no. 31F and was the only passenger in that row. The said passenger was quarantined by Airport Health Organisation (APHO) after landing in Delhi," the SpiceJet said.

At Kolkata airport, a passenger named Himadri Barman was quarantined on Tuesday, and Nagendra Singh on Wednesday, officials said. Both passengers were sent to Beliaghata ID

Hospital, a Kolkata airport official said. Earlier, a passenger named Anita Oraon had also showed signs of fever during thermal scanning, Kolkata air-port director Kaushik

Bhattacharjee said. In India, three cases have been confirmed so far in Kerala while two Indian crew on board cruise ship Diamond Princess off the Japanese coast have testpositive for the COVID-19. Union health minister Harsh Vardhan said three persons who tested positive for COVID-19 in Kerala are stable now.

Dr Vardhan said on Thursday that all 645 Indians, including 7 issue. Maldivians, evacuated from the coronavirus-hit Wuhan city are likely to



In this photo provided by Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), one of the Indian nationals who were airlifted from coronavirus-hit Hubei province of China's Wuhan, gives final sample to medics before release from the quarantine facility set by up ITBP, at Chhawla in New Delhi on Thursday.

DR VARDHAN said that all 645 Indians, including 7 Maldivians, evacuated from Wuhan are likely to be discharged once all of them test negative after a stay of 14 days.

be discharged once all of them test negative after a stay of 14 days. "India has extended support to the Maldives in testing samples and Bhutan in managing COVID-19. India has agreed to support Afghanistan in testing samples. India is also extending help to China by sending essential items for combating COVID2019 in China as lated. per commitment of the Prime Minister," the

minister said following a meeting of the Group of Ministers (GOM) on this He added that people

Meanwhile,

are being screened for coronavirus at 21 air-

crossings and all states have been informed of the guidelines and precautionary measures. At the airports, a cumula-tive of 2,51,447 persons (2,315 flights) have been screened, 3 suspected cases and 161 contacts have been identified, 5,491 and 285 passengers and crew have been screened at major and minor ports, respectively. A total of 15,991 persons are being followed up for 28 days of which 3,058 have completed 28 days of observation period. As many as 497 suspect cases have been iso-

Some of the airlines have also temporarily suspended operations. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has written a letter of appreciation to the Air India crew and health ministry officials involved in the evacua-

ports, 12 major ports, 65 tion of citizens of India minor ports and at 6 land and Maldives from the Chinese city of Wuhan following the outbreak of novel coronavirus, the Prime Minister's Office said on Thursday.

The letter would be handed over to the evacuation team, including Air India crew and Health Ministry offi-cials, by the Minister of State for Civil Aviation, the PMO statement said. Air India had conduct ed an emergency evacua tion operations from Wuhan, the epicentre of the novel coronavirus outbreak in China. "Despite being aware of

the aforementioned severe situation in the region, the Air India sent two B-747 aircraft with teams of Air India as as teams from well Ministry of Health for two consecutive days, on January 31 and February 1, returning the next the statement day

ASSESS RIGHTS SITUATION IN INDIA, SAY U.S. **SENATORS**

said

Ahead of President Donald Trump's maiden visit to India. four influential US Senators, who described themselves as "longtime friends of India", have sought an assessment of the human rights situation in Kashmir and religious freedom in the country, saying hundreds of Kashmiris remain in "preventive detention". The bipartisan group of Senators, in their letter to Secretary of State Mike Pompeo dated February 12, said that India has now imposed the longest-ever internet shutdown by a democracy, disrupting access to medical care, business and education for seven million people. The Indian government abrogated Article 370 of the Constitution on August 5, 2019 that granted special status to Jammu and Kashmir, and imposed severe curbs including on movement of people as well as on mobile telephone and internet connectivity. The crackdown drew international criticism with several countries expressing concerns over the situation in Kashmir. India has categorically told the international community that its move to scrap Article 370 was an internal matter. Internet is being restored in the Valley in a phased manner after reviewing the security situation. The US lawdescribing makers, themselves as "longtime friends of India", wrote in the letter that "more than six months after Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's governunilaterally ment revoked the autonomy of J&K, the government continues to block most internet in the region". Signatories to the letter are Chris Van Hollen, Todd Young, Richard J. Durbin and Lindsey O. Graham. -PTI

Top court to hear plea challenging **Omar's detention under PSA today**

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI. FEB. 13

The Supreme Court will hear on Friday a plea by Sara Abdullah Pilot challenging the detention of her brother and former J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah under the Public Safety Act.

Sara Abdullah's plea challenging the continued detention of Omar Abdullah is listed before a bench comprising Justice Arun Mishra and Justice Indira Banerjee. The matter has come before the bench of Justice Mishra and Justice

Banerjee as Justice Mohan

M. Shantanahoudar who was part of the bench comprising Justice N. V. Ramana and Justice Sanjiv Khanna recused himself from participating in the matter on Wednesday. Because of the recusal by Justice Shantanahoudar the matter was adjourned

on Wednesday.



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No. C-733-ENQ-DHN-20. 1. Name of the work with its location & completion period : Tender for manning of enquiry offices at 18 stations and handling of twitter cell & Rail Madad Portal in Commercial Control at Dhanbad over Dhanbad division for 1095 days (03 years) Reserve Price for three year (in ₹) ₹5,28,14,096.50, 3. Earnest Money ₹4,14,100/-. 4. Date & Time for closing and opening of Tender : Date of closing of etender at 15.00 hours on 05.03.2020. Date of opening of e-tender from 15:30 hrs. on 05.03.2020. (Packet 'A' Technical bid) 5. Website particulars : http://www.ireps.gov.in. No manual tender will be accepted against e-tendering. Railway Administration reserves the right to reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason what

PR/2219/DHN/Comm./T/19-20/36

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Tender Documents

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Tender documents can only be down

to democracy". "The time has come that Parliament must make a law to ensure that persons facing serious criminal cases do not enter the political stream," the court said in 2018.

Former TERI chief Pachauri passes away



R.K. Pachauri

New Delhi, Feb. 13: R.K. Pachauri, a former chief of The Energy and Resources Institute, passed away on Thursday after a prolonged cardiac ailment, Teri director general Ajay Mathur said. He was 79.

"It is with immense sadness that we announce the passing away of R.K. Pachauri, the founder Director of Teri. The entire Teri family stands with the family of Dr Pachauri in this hour of grief," Mathur said in a statement issued by the Teri.

'Teri is what it is because of Dr Pachauri's untiring perseverance. He played a pivotal role in growing this institu-tion, and making it a premier global organisation in the sustainability space," said Mathur, who succeeded Pachauri at Teri in 2015.

Pachauri was admitted to Escorts Heart Institute in the national capital where he underwent open heart surgery and was put on life support on Tuesday, sources said.

In 2015, Pachauri was accused of allegedly sexually harassing a woman colleague after which he quit the post. In the statement issued by Teri, its chairman Nitin Desai hailed Pachauri's contribution to global sustainable development as unparalleled.



Journalists use internet on their mobile phones after the government restored internet services in Srinagar on Thursday.

CISF to guard Srinagar airport from Feb. 15

VIKRAM SHARMA | DC **SOURCES SAID** that HYDERABAD, FEB. 13 the personnel have

Hundreds of highly trained personnel of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) have started arriving in Srinagar and will grad-ually take over the secuairport. rity of the "hyper sensitive" Srinagar airport from February 15. The move will see the end of Jammu and Kashmir police from airport duties. The urgency for the

CISF take over arose after the Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) administration wrote to the Home Ministry of Affairs (MHA) to take over the security of the CRPF airport at the earliest. This was in the following of the arrest of Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Davinder Singh who accommodation for the was posted in the antiwomen personnel of the hijacking squad in Srinagar airport. He CISF, who will be posted at the Srinagar airport, was caught while ferryis being finalised and should be done within a ing Hizbul top Mujahideen commandweek, after which they er Naveed Ahmed Shah will start arriving. alias Babu in Qazigund in the second week of Over the last one month, the CISF head-January. quarters in New Delhi

Sources in the J&K has been struggling to administration supergather 800-odd personvising the CISF takeover told *Deccan Chronicle* that the CISF nel to be posted at Srinagar airport, which is high on the radar of personnel have started

+

operating in the Kashmir valley.

Sources said that the personnel have been drawn from various places and it was only after obtaining their willingness to work in Srinagar that they were posted at the airport. In fact, after the abrogation of Article 370, there has been excessive deployment of CISF for law and order duties. 'This deployment too has been downsized to enable personnel to be posted at the airport, they said.

It is learnt that though the union home minister Amit Shah wanted the CISF to take over the security of both Jammu and Srinagar airports by February 1, which could not happen due to shortage of manpow-

The CISF deployment for Jammu airport is expected a little longer. "With Srinagar airport high on the target of terrorists, the personnel have been trained in anti-hijacking and anti-sabotage operations. They are also getting trained in use of bomb disposal equipment and other special equipment, which Srinagar airport is already equipped various terror outfits with," sources said.

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been drawn from various places and it was only after obtaining their willingness to work in Srinagar that they were posted at the arriving in Srinagar and the remaining per-

sonnel will be reach there shortly. The formal takeover will commence on February 15 and will be completed within a week from then.

Presently, the internal security of the airports is jointly handled by the J&K police and the personnel. But once the CISF takes over, the CRPF will secure only the outer areas of the airport. Sources said that the

SHORT TAKES

KARNATAKA BANDH EVOKES MIXED RESPONSE DC CORRESPONDENT BENGALURU, FEB. 13

The Karnataka bandh called by various pro-Kannada out-fits demanding a quota for Kannadigas in government and private sector jobs, evoked a mixed response across the state on Thursday.

Essential services remained unaffected while shops and business establishments functioned normally and so did schools and colleges. The protesters alleged that the ruling BJP had joined hands with the business class and capitalists to make the bandh a failure.

They also charged that the ruling BJP resorted to police brutality to quell the bandh in the state capital. All leaders who were capable of mobilis-ing crowds were taken into preventive custody, explained Jayaraj Naidu, President of Namma Karnataka Rakshana Vedike. He said Karnataka should learn from Telangana and Andhra Pradesh where the governments had protect ed the interests of locals against capitalists.

"We are protesting since the last 102 days demanding a quota for locals in jobs. Our protest will continue. We will hold a meeting and decide on staging a hunger strike until our demands are met," he added.

OPPN WANTS KERALA TOP COP REMOVED

DC CORRESPONDENT THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, FEB.

Congress-led Opposition in Kerala on Thursday reiterated the demand for removal of state police chief Loknath Behara in the wake of CAG report making startling reve-lation about shortage of 25 INSAS 5.56 mm rifles and 12,061 live cartridges during joint inspection carried out in Special Armed Police Battalion in Thiruvana-ntha-puram and other grave financial irregularities.

In a letter to Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, Opposition leader Ramesh Chennithala pointed out that CAG report contained grave charges against DGP and irregulari-ties that could pose threat to patiented accurity. Under these national security. Under these circumstances Lokanath Behera should be removed from the post of state police chief with immediate effect.

The Opposition urged the CM to recommend a CBI probe into allegations of financial



Sanjiv Chawla at crime branch office in New Delhi on Thursday.

Cong's Udaipur plenary may pick new chief

CHAKRABARTY | DC NEW DELHI, FEB. 13

Grappling with leader-ship issues at the helm after its rout in last year's Lok Sabha polls, the Congress is likely to hold an AICC plenary in Udaipur, Rajasthan, in April's first week. Sources said the one-day

plenary may address the need for a full-time president and organisational changes within the party. The exact date would be decided at a meeting of the Congress Working Committee to be called soon, the sources said, adding it can be anytime after the end of the Budget Session, which

will be on till April 3. It may be recalled that Rahul Gandhi had resigned as Congress president, taking moral responsibility for the defeat in the 2010 Lek defeat in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls, after which the party remained head-less for the next two months. After that, former party chief and for-

AFTER RAHUL Gandhi's resignation as party chief, an all-out

war had erupted within the party between the old guard and the new guard, and Sonia was made interim chief

from any such possibility. He also said the Congress should look beyond the Gandhi family for a president.

After Mr Gandhi's resignation as party chief, an all-out war had erupted within the party between the old guard and the new guard, and Mrs Gandhi's taking over as the interim chief was meant to be a peace-making exercise.

Recently, however, Mr Gandhi has begun an outreach to the nation's youth through a series of rallies on economic issues and unemployment, the first of which was held in Jaipur on January 28.

Besides the issue of the president's position, the plenary may also decide to make some "radical" changes in the organisational structure. The demand and need for an

Goli maro hurt BJP: Shah

Shah says statements like 'Indo-Pak match' should not have been made

New Delhi, Feb. 13: Union home minister Amit Shah on Thursday said statements like 'goli maro' and 'Indo-Pak match' should not have been made by BJP leaders while campaigning for the Delhi Assembly elections and that such remarks may have cost the party dearly.

He, however, said the BJP does not fight elec-tions just for victory or defeat but believes in expanding its ideology through polls.

"Such statements should not have been made. Our party has distanced itself from such remarks," he said at a programme.

Shah was asked a question about a few BJP leaders raising slogans like 'goli maro' and talking about the 'Indo-Pak match' during the Delhi elections campaigning. He admitted that the BJP

may have suffered in the polls because of the statements made by some of its leaders.

"It is possible that our performance may have suffered because of this," he said.

Shah said his assessment on Delhi elections went wrong but asserted that the result of the polls was not a mandate on the Citizenship Amendment a mobile number on the

No CM invited for Kejri event SANJAY KAW | DC **THE AAP** has planned NEW DELHI, FEB. 13 mobilisation of people for

the mega event and all Arvind Kejriwal's Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Thursday claimed that over a million people from the newly-elected MLAs of the party have been asked to ensure huge paracross the country had ticipation from their conjoined the party within 24 stituencies. hours of its stunning win in the Delhi Assembly ple could give a missed call to join the party Early on Thursday, the AAP's official Twitter handle

elections. Contrary to the speculation that several chief ministers from other states will attend Mr announced that over one million people had already joined the party. The tweet said: "More than 1 million people have Kejriwal's oath-taking ceremony at Ramlila Maidan on Sunday, the party has made it clear no joined AAP within 24 hours of our massive vicfrom leaders the tory. To join AAP, give a missed call on Opposition parties have been invited and it will be 9871010101." a "Delhi-specific" ceremo-The AAP had earlier claimed almost 11 lakh

ny. There are indications, however, that the party Minister Narendra Modi and the seven BJP MPs from Delhi to the oath ceremony.

but discussions need to

on

wants to come forward and discuss CAA," he said.

Shah also said that so far

the government has not

taken any decision on rolling out the NRC for the

whole country and made it

the

happen

the

Unfortunately,

country using multiple Soon after its historic media outlets. It was a victory in the Assembly part of the AAP's nation-

merit.

nobody

Finally, bookie Chawla extradited from UK

BHASKAR HARI SHARMA I DC NEW DELHI, FEB. 13

Bookie Sanjeev Chawla, who is the key accused in one of cricket's biggest match-fixing scandals that involved former South African captain Hansie Cronje, was extra-dited from London. It is said to be first high-profile extradition of its kind between the two countries in 20 years.

Chawla, a 50-year-old British national, was evading the arrest for nearly two decades.

After completing the formalities, he was taken to the AIIMS for a medical check-up. Chawla was "absolutely normal" during his journey to Delhi,

after his medical test. He and consular access will is normal and not under stress. He will be questioned in detail now by the crime branch," (crime branch) Gopal Naik said. DCP Ram

The Delhi-born businessman was also seen wearing an anti-pollution mask as he stepped out of

the airport. "He will be taken to five starting locations, Mumbai, where matches were played in the series, and confronted with certain people in order to unearth the larger conspiracy," the DCP added. While Tihar prison director general Sandeep

Goel said Chawla will be placed in a separate cell once he is sent to judicial custody.

"He had food twice in the flight. He also had lunch facilities will be ensured plot.

be provided. Safety and security will be ensured. The inmate will be kept in a separate cell," Mr Goel said.

According to the Delhi Police Crime Branch, in 1999, an extortion case was registered and during the probe of the case it

was revealed that some persons with the help of South African skipper Hansie Cronje were conspiring to fix the India-South Africa Cricket Test Series which was to be played in Februaryplayed in February-March, 2000 regarding which a case was registered. The police said that they were probing an extortion racket in 2000, when they intercepted





Union home minister Amit Shah and director general of Civil Aviation Security and Director General of the Narcotics Control Bureau, Rakesh Asthana, during the inauguration of India's first BIMSTEC conference on drug trafficking, in New Delhi on Thursday.

BJP blames bipolar contest for defeat

irregularities and fund diversion and NIA probe into matters that posed threat to national security. The CM, however, said he had not seen the letter written by the opposition leader.

MANTRI'S SON'S CAR KILLS 2; **COVER-UP FEARED**

DC CORRESPONDENT BENGALURU, FEB. 13

Did the Karnataka police try to hush up an accident case involving the son of BJP heavyweight and revenue minister, R. Ashok?

Two persons, including a ninth standard student and a passenger in the car, were killed in the accident which took place on February 10 at Mariyammanahalli near Hosapete in Ballari district.

Mariyammanahalli resident Ravi Naik and Sachin, a resi dent of Kereguddadahalli and a friend of Sharath, minister Ashok's son, have been identi fied as the deceased. Rakesh, Shivakumar and Rahul who were travelling in the car were injured in the incident and were shifted to Bengaluru for treatment.

said minister Sources Ashok's son Sharath had been to a resort near the World Heritage Site, Hampi to celebrate his birthday. It is said that the accident happened while he was returning with his friends in his Mercedes Benz car bearing registration number KA 05 MW 0357.

Sharath was allegedly in the driver's seat and lost control of the vehicle near Durga petrol bunk on NH-50 hitting a local boy Ravi Naik, who was drink ing tea. Ravi Naik died on the spot while Sachin who was in the seat beside the driver, succumbed to his injuries.

The police allegedly left out the name of the minister's son during the investigation and instead named another person, Rahul claiming he was driving the car. They named all friends of the minister's son in the FIR but excluded Sharath.

over as interim president. demand and need for an While a section claimed Mrs Gandhi would restructuring comes amid the huge drubbing remain as interim president, another said Rahul the party got in the Delhi Gandhi might make a comeback at the plenary. However. Mr Gandhi has distanced himself

mer UPA chairperson

Sonia Gandhi had taken

CONGRESS NEEDS NEW STYLE OF

RABINDRA NATH CHOUDHURY | DC BHOPAL, FEB. 13

Describing decimation of Congress in Delhi Assembly elections as disappointing', 'very disappointing, AICC general secretary 'very Jvotiraditva Scindia on Thursday felt the urgency 'reinventing' Congress with 'new ideology, new thinking and

Assembly elections, where its voteshare plunged to a mere four per cent.

new style of functioning'. Talking to reporters at

FUNCTIONING, SAYS JYOTIRADITYA

Prithvipur in Tikamgarh district under Bundelkhand region of Madhya Pradesh, Scindia said, "The results of Delhi elections for the party are very disappoint-ing. Party needs to reinvent itself with new thinking, new ideology and new way of functioning"

Act (CAA) or the National Register of Citizens (NRC).

He said anyone who wants to discuss issues related to CAA with him can seek time from his office. "(We) will give time within three days," he added.

Strongly defending the CAA, which provides for Indian citizenship to persecuted non-Muslims from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan, the home minister said there is no such provision in the new law that will take away the citizenship of Muslims.

"We have never discriminated against anyone on cise were free to do so. the ground of religion. There is no provision in the CAA which says that citizenship of Muslims will be revoked. Don't just criticise CAA, but discuss

building campaign titled "AAP Rashtra Nirman", day of counting on where all Indians were Tuesday requesting peoinvited to join the party.

people had taken part in

the party's campaign by

giving a missed call to the

number that was shared

with people across the

one has a right to peaceful it on the basis of merits. CAA is neither antiprotest but violence is not Muslim nor anti-minority. iustified. I am ready to meet anyone,

'We tolerate non-violent protests, but vandalism can't be tolerated. Silent protest is a democratic right," he said.

On Jammu and Kashmir, Shah said everyone, including politicians, are free to visit the newly-created Union Territory whenever they want to clear that those unwilling and there is no restriction on anyone's movement.

to show documents during National Asked about the deten-Population Register exertion of three former chief ministers Farooq ministers — Farooq Abdullah, Omar Abdullah He, however, said the NRC was a promise of the and Mehbooba Mufti — he said it was a decision of BJP in its election manifesto. Asked about the the local administration to slap them with the Public ongoing agitations against the CAA, Shah said every-Safety Act. -PTI

New Delhi, Feb. 13: The BJP increased its vote share in the Delhi Assembly polls but lost out to the AAP as the contest became bipolar, party sources said after a review of its performance on

Thursday. BJP president J.P. Nadda held the review meeting with the party's Delhi unit head Manoj Tiwari and general secretary (organisation) B.L. Santosh.

The ruling Aam Aadmi Party, led by Arvind Kejriwal, won 62 of the 70 Assembly seats in Delhi, while the BJP bagged the remaining eight seats.

The Congress, which had governed the national capital for 15 years before the AAP, failed to win a

single seat. The meeting observed that the party fought the February 8 election with its full strength and reached voters across the national capital, according to sources. "In future, the party should prepare itself for bipolar contest in the national capital,' one of the sources stated. "It was felt that though the BJP's vote share, along with that of its allies, increased by 8 per cent but the contest became bipolar which cost the BJP," the source added. For further analysing the Delhi elections, a number of meetings will be held at the party's office on Friday,

NIRBHAYA | CASE | Convict has claimed that he was tortured by jail staff SC verdict on Vinay's petition today

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, FEB. 13

The Supreme Court, on Thursday, reserved its verdict on a plea by Vinay Sharma — one of the four death row convicts in Nirbhaya case — challeng-ing the rejection of his mercy petition by President Ram Nath Kovind.

Vinay Sharma has challenged the rejection of the mercy petition citing flaws including lack of "procedural fairness" while considering and rejecting the mercy petition.

A bench comprising Justice R. Banumathi, Justice Ashok Bhushan, and Justice A.S. Bopanna reserved the order with last dot. Advocate A.P. Singh told the court that Vinay Sharma was ill-treated in solicitor general Tushar Mehta producing the entire record relating to the jail, was beaten up sev-Vinay Sharma's mercy petition demonstrating



Nirbhaya's mother and father at the Patiala House Court, in New Delhi on Thursday. – PTI

indignities and torture by that there was no procethe jail staff and other jail dural infirmity and everything was followed to the inmates.

The court rejected Mr Singh's plea that he may be permitted to peruse the file relating to Vinay Sharma's mercy petition. eral times, subjected to The court will pronounce its order on Friday (Feb. 14) and will also hear the Centre's plea for separate hanging of three convicts — Vinay, Akshay, and Mukesh — who have already exhausted all the legal remedies, including mercy petition.

have government approached the top court challenging the Delhi high court's judgment holding that all the four death row convicts in Nirbhaya gang-rape and murder case will be executed together and not individually. Notice to the four convicts on Centre and Delhi government's plea for separate execution of death

sentence was issued on February 11, 2020. A Delhi court, on Thursday, appointed an advocate to represent Pawan Gupta, one of the four death row convicts in the Nirbhaya gang-rape and murder case, after he refused to take a lawyer offered by District Legal Authority

The court had, on Wednesday, offered a counsel to Gupta and expressed displeasure over the delay in the process from his side. Gupta said he had removed his earlier lawyer and would need time to engage a new one. Gupta is the only one among the four convicts who has not yet filed a curative petition — the last legal remedy available to a person that is decided inchamber. He also has the option of filing a mercy plea.

The court was hearing applications moved by Nirbhaya's parents and the Delhi government, seeking fresh death warrants for the four convicts.

Jaishankar, Guha spar over Sardar as minister

sources said.

rubbished

bv Guha

Jaishankar, then some-

what sarcastically, said it

may be a "good habit" for

professors too to read

DC CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, FEB. 13

External affairs minister S. Jaishankar on Thursday got into a mild spat with historian and author Ramachandra Guha over a claim in a book that India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru had not wanted Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in his Cabinet.

It all began when Jaishankar released a biography of late civil servant V.P. Menon, written by Narayani Basu.

Menon, as secretary of the then states department, had served under Sardar Patel when he was deputy PM and home minister 1947. in Jaishankar referred to a claim in the book that Nehru had not wanted Patel in his Cabinet initially. But this claim was

books. Jaishankar tweeted: Released an absorbing biography of VP Menon @narayani_basu. by Sharp contrast between Patel's Menon and Nehru's Menon. Much awaited justice done to a truly historical figure. Learnt from the book that Nehru did not want Patel in the Cabinet in 1947 and omitted him from the initial Cabinet list. Clearly, a subject for much debate.' Guha said: "This is a myth, that has been comprehensively demolished Prof. bv Srinath Raghavan... Besides, promoting fake news about, and false rivalries between, the builders of modern India is not the job of a foreign minister.

Services (DLSA) as legal aid.

The Centre and the Delhi

DECCAN CHRONICLE | FRIDAY | 14 FEBRUARY 2020 | HYDERABAD

Chronicle

14 FEBRUARY 2020 Face up to cold truth: Stagflation here to stay

inance minister Nirmala Sitharaman had recently told Parliament that green shoots in the Indian economy are clearly visible and the steps taken by the Reserve Bank of India would boost the growth further. In defence of the government's economic performance, Ms Sitharaman had cited improvement in foreign inflows, industrial growth, forex reserves, performance of the stock markets and tax collections under the Goods and Services Tax.

But little more than 24 hours later, another arm of the same government - the ministry of statistics and programme implementation — literally showed the mirror to the finance ministry through its monthly data which revealed that industrial growth has again shrunk while retail inflation has continued to shoot up to a six-year-high. These two data points show that the Indian economy is still not out of the woods and is firmly in the grip of stagflation

Though industrial growth in December 2019 has shrunk by 30 basis points, the situation would look more disconcerting if one looks at the details of the slowing industrial growth. There has been a secular contraction in all user-based segments except primary and intermediate sectors. The production of consumer durable goods, which is a barometer for con-sumer confidence in the economy, has contracted by 6.7 per cent. Shrinkage in the production of consumer non-durable goods — by 3.7 per cent — shows that the people have rediscovered thrift in their lives. The production of capital goods, which has a direct correlation with the econo-my growth and job creation, has contracted by 18 per cent in December. When the production and demand remain muted, one wonders how the finance minister could expect higher tax revenue. This reaffirms the con-

cerns of poor job creation in the country — a profoundly worrisome prospect for a country of 130 crore people, a majority of whom are young. Components that fuelled retail inflation to a six-year-high of 7.59 per cent in January could have a longer lasting impact than those that stoked infla-tion in December. When inflation hit 7.35 per cent in the previous month due to rise in vegetable prices, it was not considered a grave threat, as veg-etable prices would get corrected quickly after higher production. In January, though, higher vegetable prices remained the biggest contributor; the prices of pulses, meat and fish, eggs, spices, personal care products, transport and communication have spiked by more than six per cent. The prices of some of these products may not decline very soon. A hike in the LNG prices, though its impact on consumers was softened by a higher subsidy, would also surely impact the government's finances.

The Narendra Modi government should not take the economy for granted and let politics take it hostage. As rating agency Standard and Poor's said in its assessment, downward pressure on India's sovereign credit rat-ings could emerge if the country's average economic growth over the next four years falls below the forecasted 7.1 per cent or if the general government deficit (including the Centre and states) rises or if political developments undermine the economic reform momentum. Let's hope that the Prime Minister is listening.

Hafiz: Token step by Pak?

n October last year, the Paris-based international anti-terrorism watchdog Financial Action Task Force (FATF) didn't blackball Pakistan altogether on the terrorism question, placing Islamabad on its "grey" list for a period of four months. This was leniency being shown since FATF is currently being chaired by China, Pakistan's best friend.

The grey list categorisation meant that the so-called improvement in Islamabad's attitude on terrorism was being noted, but clearly it was far from enough. The improvement essentially lay in the Pakistan government taking over scores of seminaries that preach the terrorism gospel. FATF called for further action to show Pakistan's commitment to deal with terror funding and money-laundering for terrorist purposes.

With the four-month grace period ending soon, an anti-terror court in Lahore on Wednesday sentenced Hafiz Saeed, founder-chief of Jamaat-ud-Dawa, the mother outfit of Lashkar-e-Tayyaba, and an associate to 11 years of rigorous imprisonment on two counts of terror funding and money-laundering, indicating that it was observing the letter of FATF's instructions. Whether the rigorous imprisonment aspect is observed seriously is moot, considering it is Pakistan, although Saeed has been declared a "global terrorist

by the UN and the US. With the FATF threat looming, a court has meted out punishment, at least for the record. Years of diplomatic demands by India to proceed against the terrorist mastermind over the Mumbai 26/11 attacks of 2008, in which 166 persons were killed, had produced no results. Extraordinarily, the Pakistani courts always found the evidence insufficient. This time they didn't as a negative FATF recommendation can mean cutting off of aid from international outfits. The chief US diplomat for South and Central Asia, Alice Wells, called the decision "a step forward" in combating terror funding. Washington needs to please Islamabad as US negotiations with the Taliban in the Afghanistan context are still to be over. India, for its part, must keep up pressure to get justice for the victims of Mumbai.



A year after Pulwama, it's time for outreach in J&K



February 4, 2019, a suicide car bomb attack on a CRPF convoy on the newly-rolled out highway from Srinagar to Qazigund led to a catastrophic loss of 40 Indian paramilitary per-sonnel returning from leave. It was the largest loss by a single act in the 30-year sponsored proxy hybrid conflict in Kashmir. Following its well-established policy of strategic denial, Pakistan was quick to label the attack a "false flag operation" by India. The Indian response had to meet a couple of parameters. First, it had to begin with an action in the military domain to meet public sentiments and political necessity. This was mandatory since a lack of response would run hollow to the strategy the Indian government had adopted following the Uri terror attack, which led to the ment was forced to respond. The dilemma surface-based surgical strikes of September 28, 2016. Second, a diplomatic initiative was necessary to neutralise the mounting Pakistani falsehood which could run away with the cultivation of its narrative among the international community. Third, the escalation had to be tightly under Indian control. In such a situation, the politicostrategic aim of the Indian government appeared to focus upon conveying that India could see through the nuclear bluff, would employ a calibrated kinetic response at a time and place of its own choosing, and display the will to escalate if necessary. Detailed deliberations on the choice of response led to the selection of a surgical airstrike against the Balakot training facility Jaish-e-Mohammad of (JeM), known to house a large number of terrorists under training, along with a seminary. The strike, 13 days later, was professionally executed by the Indian Air Force. What many observers failed to

measured notice about the strategy underlying the Indian choice of target, just as in the case of the sur-face-based surgical strikes in September 2016, was the major dilemma it caused to the Pakistani leadership. The targets were purely terror-related and despite intense links between the Pakistan Army and the West Punjab-based terror groups, the Indian response did not target any military facility. In the case of the 2016 surgical strikes, Pakistan responded with a denial of any such strike hav-ing taken place. In the case of the Balakot strike, it assiduously launched a disinformation campaign that there was no impact of the airstrike. However, with the conwere firmed entry of the IAF into Pakistani airspace, the Pakistani establish-

it hugely benefited the NDA government in winning a second term, while diplomatically the domain appeared sound. The mention of PoK and its re-integration as the remaining agenda, and the possible review of India's "no first use" Indian response only against terror infrastructure and drawdown from escalation helped in nuclear doctrine, succeeded in sending out a message of far bolder maintaining moral ascendancy. The Indian narrative about being one of the oldest victims intent. The continuum into 2020 is seeing Pakistan psychologically on the of trans-national terror through the Pakistan-sponsored proxy hybrid backfoot with limited options to re-energise J&K. Two other factors war in J&K was received are adding to the cascadmuch more positively in ing effect of the events of important capitals around the world. Militarily, the Indian Army's robust response in South Kashmir 2019; first the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) scrutiny, and second, the rapidly dete-riorating economy that was bailed out in 2010 helped clean up several modules. All this gave was bailed out in 2019 through a \$6 billion IMF package. The FATF process is leading to Pakistan attempting to showcase how much it the Indian government the political will and the confidence to take the next steps in J&K, for which there had been a has done in dismantling clamour for long. Early in its tenure NDA 2.0 terror financing and sponsorship. with actions like pursuit of the case against Jamaat-ud-Dawa chief Hafiz decided to act upon its long-prepared strategy for a political initiative. Saeed. What is working On August 5, with unprecedented security for Pakistan as a silver arrangements in J&K, lining, however, is the developing situation in Afghanistan, with a the special constitution-al provisions for J&K legislatively potential between the United States and the Taliban, annulled and the administrative setup of the brokered by Pakistan. If state restructured to carve out two Union terthat happens, and what-ever be the final longritories — Ladakh, and Jammu & Kashmir. A term outcome, Pakistan second round of diplowill for some time macy by India ensured return to favour with

LETTERS **CENSUS EXERCISE**

I think the Census exercise is a routine one and should not raise any doubts (TS begins Census, sparks NRC fears, DC, Feb. 13). However, it would be ideal if senior government officials, preferably the CM himself, had announced this as the times are very sensitive and the atmosphere all over the country is so surcharged.

Abbas A. Tyabji Hyderabad

GARBAGE CHARGES

GHMC officials seem to have no control over garbage collection agents (Greater Hyderabad resi dents are paying twice for garbage, DC, Feb. 13). They often try to extort money from house-holds and don't turn up if they are not obliged. Complaints posted on the GHMC app are closed by saying the garbage is cleared without the official concerned reading about the same. Even if the com-plaint is reopened, it meets the same fate. It is ironic that GHMC is harassing citizens who are paying fixed charges. I hope the GHMC will now clear the air and give publicity about the amount to be paid. Otherwise, people will throw garbage on the streets. **Kumar Shastri** Moula Ali

Most residents and shopkeepers keep their premises clean by disposing off the garbage in the dustbins allotted in their respective areas. However, we often see roadsides and dump yards with huge garbage cans filled up and not cleared by the GHMC personnel. The GHMC must put up guidance, caution and warning notices and penalise careless persons for a clean and healthy Hyderabad. Gudipati Shanti Priya With Secunderabad

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ated with the

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International

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Conflict Studies.

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sponsored terror facilities exist in India, the choice was limited to the military domain. A message to the Pakistan public was necessary an adequate that response to the Indian action had been execut-ed. In the bargain, Pakistan chose to do a sham entry by the Pakistan Air Force across the LoC in the Rajouri sector to drop some munitions. The strategy for the sham entry was well conceived and led to a mismatched air battle, leading to the shooting down of an Indian MiG-21 Bison, with unconfirmed reports of downgy ing of a PAF F-16 too. The escalation ended swiftly with the hasty repatriation of the Indian pilot. The events of February 14-27, 2019 led to a spiral of continuing activity that has placed Pakistan completely on the defensive. This should be seen through the prism of the political, diplomatic, military and psychological domains. Politically

for Pakistan was the

choice of targets. Since

the US. The perilous ecothat the extraordinary initiative was seen internomic situation will nec essarily again be bailed nationally as India's internal affair. The manout but the risk factor of attempting a transforagement of the security domain was ensured mational revival of turthrough tough meabulence in J&K would sures. With preparatory play on both Pakistan work having gone into this, the Pakistani capaand its chief financial supporters. Afghanistan also in a bility to calibrate its response to the initiastate of transition, it tives was effectively may neutralised through effective targeting of Pakistan's capability to simultaneously handle multiple networks, leadtwo borders and two turership and communicabulent regions. We can expect a cooler summer tion facilities. In the bargain, Pakistan was in J&K, and it is thus the placed on the backfoot. moment for India to go all out with better gover-For a change, the Indian communications stratenance, a better commufor the external nications strategy and outreach and, most of all, much better political What is working for handling. Pakistan as a silver lining is the devel-The writer, a retired

lieutenant-general, is a oping situation in former commander of Afghanistan, with a the Srinagar-based 15 potential agreement Corps. He is also associbetween the US and the Taliban. If that happens, Pakistan will return to favour Institute of Peace and with the US.

CONGRESS CRISIS

The Delhi Assembly poll verdict shows the leadership crisis plaguing India's grand old party, the Congress. Gone are the days when one could sit in Delhi and run the party (*Chacko blames Sheila*, *faces flak*, *DC*, Feb. 13). The Congress should look at Amit Shah and find hard-working leaders. Congress leaders Sachin Pilot, the Deputy Chief Minister of Rajasthan would be the best bet as party president and the Prime Minister candidate for the next Lok Sabha elections.

> P.J. David Hyderabad

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.

movie stars, society scandals and true crime — with the mantra of "diversity, inclusion and equity", or DIE for short. News-stand sales have predictably declined. At this year's shindig, she boasted to a reporter that she'd been working to make it more inclusive. A laudable aim, no doubt, but hardly the way to attract A-listers.

In fairness, Jones is a symptom of the problem, not the cause. The reason the Oscars aren't what they used to be, and the after-parties have lost their lustre, is because the entire media-industrial complex has been captured by an army of sanctimonious finger-waggers. Being lectured about the evils of dairy farming by a bug-eyed environmental clutching a gold statuette isn't anyone's idea of a fun night out. The zeitgeist has taken up residence elsewhere.

> By arrangement with the Spectator

eading about the Oscars this week, I couldn't help thinking back to a time when they Actually meant something. When I lived in America in the mid-1990s, the Academy Awards were described as "the gay Super Bowl" which, although it sounded flippant, acknowledged their cultural signifi-cance. And judging from the number of people who watched them, the Oscars were a big deal. In 1998, the year Titanic won Best Picture, 55 million Americans tuned in. This year, the Oscars attracted an average of 23.6 million viewers, an all-time low. Not so much the Super Bowl as Bristol Rovers vs Southend United on a rainy Tuesday night.

The parabolic decline of the Vanity Fair Oscars party makes for a good case study in what has gone wrong. I gatecrashed the party in 1994, the first year it was held, by pretending to be William Cash, then the Times's Los Angeles correspondent. This was

before Graydon Carter, then the editor-in-chief, had managed to enlist the Los Angeles Country Sheriff's Department to check everyone's credentials. He needed to do that, too, because the party was mobbed by thousands of wannabes, all claiming to be on the guest list. In 1996, by which time I was working at *Vanity* Fair, an enterprising journalist from the Star supermarket tabloid turned up with a pig on a lead, claiming it had played the title role in Babe, one of that year's Best Picture nominees. The clipboard-wielding door staff looked a bit sceptical, but decided to give her the benefit of the doubt.

If you managed to get in, it really was something. Within minutes of arriving in 1994, I introduced myself to Sharon Stone — then the biggest sex symbol in Hollywood — who promptly palmed me off on Leonardo DiCaprio, then aged 19. He'd been nominated for Best Supporting Actor for his performance in What's Eating

Gilbert Grape. A year later, I cornered Jim Carrey in the gents and was regaled with a ten-minute routine about attending a motivational seminar for celebrities by Tony Robbins. To this day, it remains the only party I've attended where people stood out for not being celebrities. As I worked the room, some of the most famous people on the planet would point at me, saying: "Who the hell is that guy?"

Now, it's basically a Lufthansa airport lounge. I haven't been in more than 20 years, but judging from the reports of the dozens of journalists who attended this year — no need for hacks to gatecrash now — it's a corporate snore-fest. The food is provided by In-N-Out Burger, while the dancefloor is sponsored by Apple. If you aren't among the thousands to receive invitations, no need to worry — you can livestream the party via Verizon, one of several phone companies who sponsor it each year.

Other sponsors — such as Instagram, which used to have a photobooth at the event — have pulled out because the party's become so uncool. For the exhausted stars — there are more than 50 comparable parties during Oscars week — it has become a tenminute photo-call on their way to one of the private bashes hosted by Madonna or Jay-Z.

One of the reasons the party has fallen from grace is because it has become so insufferably woke. Hollywood celebrities talk a big game in public, but in private they enjoy letting their hair down. There used to be scantily clad "cigarette girls" roaming the party and there was no need to ask where the bathrooms were — you just followed the trail of white powder. *Today*, the magazine is edited by Radhika Jones, a former editorial director of the New York Times books department, who has replaced the magazine's tried-and-tested formula

Even Oscars after-parties have now lost

their shine

Toby Young

DECCAN CHRONICLE | FRIDAY | 14 FEBRUARY 2020 | HYDERABAD



Why is anti-Semitism creeping back in US, Europe?



Saeed Naqvi **Wide Angle**

had pulled out all my notes on Arvind Kejriwal and his Aam Aadmi Party machine, when a mail from Warsaw redirected me towards a different column. I'll get back to Mr Kejriwal next time. The mail said that creeping anti-Semitism in Europe and the United States was being largely ignored by the mainstream media in those countries. The mind went back to my schooldays when we became first acquainted with the term anti-Semitism because Mr Rayner, the only teacher who was allowed to smoke in class, took particular relish from the predicament of Shylock, the Jewish moneylender who is the central figure in William Shakespeare's *Merchant of Venice*, which he taught. He

consistently posed the ques-tion: Was Shylock a victim or a villain?

publicly spat upon. But

Shylock's grief reaches epic pro-

portions when Christians inflict

a nasty bit of "Love Jihad" on

runs away with Lorenzo, a Christian. Worse, she runs

away with his "ducats", the cur-

rency those days. "O' my daugh-ter; O' my ducats". I cannot

such nail-biting suspense as

when Portia saves Antonio

before Elizabethan times.

from Shylock's blade.

measure. The Reconquista, or the return of Christian rule in 1478, led to the Spanish Inquisitions, which were harsher on the Jews than on A pound of flesh closest to Antonio's heart was what Muslims. Countries from Morocco upto the Ottoman Empire accorded hospitality to Shylock had insisted on in the event of default. He sought revenge because he had been insulted by the Christians; he the persecuted Jews. had had his "Jewish gabardine"

remained a sentiment in two

powerful strands. One was the

direct Christian prejudice

against Jews in Europe, which climaxed with Hitler in Germany. The Islamic con-quest of Spain in the eighth

century had led to the flourish-

ing of a composite culture in which Muslims, Christians

and Jews contributed in equal

The basic conflict, whether in Northern Europe or in the Iberian Peninsula, was always between Christianity and Judaism, not the least because him — his daughter Jessica Christians blamed Jews for Christ's death. What has puzzled me always is the deafening Jewish-Muslim acrimony. shall never forget the day in the Royal Palace in Rabat, remember a courtroom with Morocco, when I found myself seated in the office of Andre Azoulay, the late King Hasan's principal adviser. He was the Anti-Semitism, from much second most powerful man in the kingdom. He was а

Sympathy for Jews has given place to an awe for the Jewish state. The exceptional achievements of Jewish people will always shine through, but individuals are being submerged in unwholesome Zionist excesses.

Sephardic Jew like so many others in the country who held key posts. A mandatory annual event was the jamboree hosted by His Majesty for Sephardic Jews in the diaspora. This sentimental reunion was a continuation of a medieval tradition. When 50,000 Jews were expelled from Spain after the Reconquista, Morocco and other North Áfrican states had accorded the new "refugees" extraordinary hospitality. Even after Jews from this part of the world had made their homes in Israel, they remem-bered how well Morocco had treated them. I have seen photographs of King Hasan dominate Sephardic drawing rooms in Jerusalem.

By the 1980s the Jewish state and the international Jewry had become so powerful that even "reworking" Shakespeare became a legitimate intervention. Rather than discard the *Merchant of Venice* and select any one of Shakespeare's plays in 1989, director Sir Peter Hall chose to tweak Shakespeare and impart rationalism to Shylock's character. Dustin Hoffman virtually reimagined Shylock, toning down his usurious rate of interest, thereby enhancing the sympathy factor for the moneylender. A sort of Christian ganging up against a hapless "professional" was played up. Shylock's tragic end is ironically the heart of the play's mirth.

The toning down of the Shakespearean prejudice against Jews was clearly a function of guilt on account of the excesses during the Second World War. The remarkable rise in anti-Semitism in recent decades by comparison leaves one aghast. Sympathy for Jews has given place to an awe for the Jewish state. The exceptional achievements of Jewish people will always shine through, but individuals are being submerged in unwhole-

some Zionist excesses. These excesses are being amplified by Donald Trump's singularly one-sided support for anything that Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu demands. The general projection of both as heartbullies automatically less accelerates anti-Semitism. Take the "Deal of the Century", Mr Trump's "two-state peace plan" for the Middle East, that only the duet and their closest supporters were ecstatic about. There will be a corresponding spike in ill-will.

Do you think American cam-puses are falling over each other in adoration for Mr Trump and his buddy after he signed an executive order aimed at combating anti-Semitism on US college campuses. "This is our message to uni-

versities - if you want to accept the federal dollars you get each year, you must reject anti-Semitism." What must students do to become good boys entitled to federal funds? Abandon the "Boycott, Divest and Sanction Israel movement", which has been popular

on campuses. Jewish lobbies in Poland, for example, were bringing to bear

their considerable clout on property transactions. Properties owned by Jews before the war were being successfully reclaimed by the old owners at throwaway prices. When a Polish law sought to deter these transactions, the US state department intervened. Officials in Washington would keep a watchful eye to protect Jewish interests. Imagine how the Poles would respond to such interference. The rise of anti-migrant, anti-

Semitic leaders in Hungary, Germany, Austria and Poland is a depressing list. By their behaviour, the Trump-Netanyahu duet have only aggravated the situation.

At an international conference in Warsaw last year, Israeli foreign minister Yisrael Katz accused the Polish leadership of anti-Semitism. His language was unbelievably coarse: "Poles suckle anti-Semitism from their mother's milk." How would this out-burst have registered with the Primetime TV viewers in Poland?

> The writer is a senior journalist and commentator based in New Delhi

Schools of terror: How prisons fuel radicalism, create new extremists

We must deal with

things as they are.

Ian Acheson

ometimes it appears as if, over the past 10 the **B**ritish years, government has been actively trying to destroy the whole criminal justice system. It's like an evil experiment: impose a 20 per cent cut in the prisons budget, meaning a 26 per cent reduction in the number of operational frontline staff — then sit back and see what happens. What happened was predictable, with disastrous consequences for both inmates and the public. As a previous Conservative home secretary once said, Britain's prisons became places that "make bad people worse'

Imagine a young man like Sudesh Amman arriving in prison after his first offence. He was already a drug user, known to have a cannabis habit. He was mentally unstable and radicalised by Islamist propaganda. He entered a prison that's usually overcrowded, frequently filthy and with too few staff struggling just to keep people alive (themselves included) from one end of the day to the other. Inside, all of his problems are not addressed but exacerbated. In most prisons there's a rampant drugs economy that destroys lives and drives much of the violence. It makes the task of reforming offenders near impossible. The money to be made from drugs inside is extraordinary. The predators can access their customer base without leaving their cells. Mobile phones actually designed and sold for their ability to be stored where the

sun don't shine have handy

apps to transfer the cash to the

dealers. It's also convenient

for the dealers that many of

the captive consumers have

huge unmet needs with mental health problems. Finally, charismatic hate preachers are in close proximity to cred-

ulous, violent, addicted young men in search of meaning and excitement. The details of Amman's incarceration and early life are slowly emerging and they suggest a loner and a misfit, infatuated with death, who was eager for martyrdom to make sense of a failed and futile existence. This is a depressingly familiar profile for lone actor terrorists the world over, and it is often asso-

documentary showed, it needs the full attention of staff to struggle to contain 68 street gangs and entrenched use of psychoactive drugs.

Who the hell would work in a place like this? Good question. While the gigantic Grayling-sized hole in the staff bucket has lately started to fill with emergency recruitment of new staff, they emerge from one of the shortest training courses in Europe to work in one of the most hostile environments outside a war zone. An Afghan veteran prison officer recently said that he had felt safer in Helmand. Little wonder then, that on the latest figures, over half of all prison officers hanging up their keys have less than two years' service. When stacking shelves pays more than being the state's punchbag, it's not hard to understand why. When I wrote my review of Islamist extremism in the criminal justice system in 2016, my team and I were unanimous that a prison solely for terrorists was not the answer to the threat we identified. We took the view that the only extremists who should be separated were the hate preachers: those likely to inspire others with extreme ideology. We recommended they should be cut off from their targets for as long as they persisted in their activi-We were mindful of the ties. lessons from the past from Northern Ireland, but not hamstrung by them.

Now, I'm not so sure. We need secure and stable prisons that are fully in the control of the state: and too many prisons now fail this test. We cannot have environments where people like Usman Khan and Sudesh Amman degenerate into killing machines. We can't tolerate a system where the sole product of their time behind bars is the dehumanisation of themselves and others. It is increasingly hard to make the case for a "good prison" that puts brawlers and gangsters up in close proximity to death cultists.

What would a terrorist prison look like? There are plenty of examples around the world to draw from. Many aren't good. The main argu ment for dispersing terrorist prisoners across a number of reinforced prisons (as we currently do) is that this reduces the potency and capability of the most dangerous. But dispersal was designed to deal with serious organised crime syndicates, not networked 21st-century jihadists with hinterlands of supporters in each of the six prisons they are likely to end up in. Metastasising the cancer of violent extremism across our prison system doesn't seem to be the right response to a movement whose modus operandi is global revolution through recruitment of new blood. But in the current environment, it's unlikely we will move to jihadi jails anytime soon. In the meantime we must deal with things as they are. We need a framework for sentencing and releasing prisoners and this is in progress. The quantity of years given to an extremist is less important than the quality of the incarceration. Of the 82,000-odd prisoners, only about 220 are terrorists, with hundreds more screened after being deemed at risk of radicalisation. We need to be more assertive in managing the challenge they pose — from

the start of their custody to their resettlement in the community.

All the various arrange ments for the supervision of terrorist offenders "in the community" (i.e. outside of prison) use structures and agencies that are philosophically and organisationally unsuitable for the manage ment of this threat. There should be one terrorist prisoner management service, covering individualised treatprogrammes, ment risk assessment, release decisions and resettlement supervision. People who go into the streets and stab strangers with impunity are in no conventional way rational. So we need to step up the surveillance, treatment and protection of those whose psychological disorders may predispose them to strike. No more generic, psychosocial interventions invented by wellmeaning professionals.

And finally: you can't defeat Islamism without Islam. We need an urgent step change in

Ship with coronavirus on board has turned into a floating prison



t appears to be a scene from a film. A large ship

docked at a faraway har-

bour enveloped in grey

mist. There are more than 3,700 people on the ship, a

thousand of them crew mem-

bers working hard below

decks and the passenger state-

rooms. Yet, while the ship is

docked, no one is permitted to get off except those who have already been stricken. To

retrieve them, health workers

arrive fully suited in white

hazard protective gear. A makeshift decontamination

chamber sprays both patients and health workers as they emerge from the ship.

Everyone else must stay on

board, where they have been

confined since February 5.

ple reported to be infected are crew members.

It is a sad illustration of the cruelty of class systems. The crew, most of them from the Philippines and India, prepare and deliver the three meals that each passenger is allotted per day to their rooms so that the passengers remain sequestered (as per the instructions of Japanese authorities). On Sunday, an Indian crew member (there are hundreds of them) recorded a video that quickly went viral. In the video, he begs the Indian government to rescue the Indian citizens on the ship. Otherwise, he says, the virus that is spreading its tentacles ever deeper into the ship will also claim them.

There are moral dilemmas here. How long should the thousands on the Diamond Princess, or for that matter the millions in Wuhan, be quarantined for? Is it humane to make a random sample of human beings, rendered unfortunate through chance and circumstance and having to bear the cost of ensuring that humanity remains relatively safe? Currently, the answer seems yes. Videos emerging from Wuhan, where many have literally been locked into their houses (padlocks installed outside by the police) show that authorities have to use increasingly severe measures to maintain the quarantine. The situation on the ship is calmer, but one wonders whether it will continue to be so in the event that the passengers learn they will not be leaving the vessel on February 19. In the meantime, the rest of us who are lucky enough not to have the virus or face the quarantine should take a moment to consider those in such difficult circumstances. How would one pass the endless stretches of time; how would one prevent a psychological breakdown; who would one wish to be guarantined with were such a situation to arise? These are useful mind experiments; more practical ones include the procurement of face masks, disinfectant and hand sanitiser (which are manufactured in China and likely to face shortages in the coming days). Meanwhile, the Diamond Princess remains docked at Yokohama harbour, taking periodic journeys out to sea so it can dispose of the wastewater that the ship is producing. As it does so, one cannot help but wonder if the planet we live on, one which is afflicted with this disease, is not simply a larger version of the Diamond Princess, some of us more adept than others at passing the time until the virus takes us. The lucky and the unlucky, the healthy and the diseased, the poor and the rich — all float together until the arrival of some unforeseen end.

We need a framework for sentencing and releasing prisoners and this is in progress. The quantity of years given to an extremist is less important than the quality of the incarceration.

ciated with mental illness. And this matters. The relationship between mental or developmental disorders and terrorism is frequently drowned out

— either by commentators who see conspiracy to obscure the ideological origins of the crime, or by those who fear all mentally ill people will get labelled as dangerous.

Such concerns are understandable — but those killed by insane terrorists are just as dead as those dispatched by "rational" killers. Amman's former cell mate at HMP Belmarsh has described him as someone who was "definitely insane and he never hid his intentions, so it's crazy how he even got out of jail". Amman's mother has claimed that her son was effectively brainwashed by material he viewed online in prison. It's still possible to be astonished at this. HMP Belmarsh is a relatively modern high-security prison hous-ing a number of terrorists. It has a permanent presence of counter-terrorism officers within its security and intelligence department. It is relatively well-resourced. But as ITV's Welcome to Belmarsh the recruitment, deployment and involvement of moderate and modern Islamic scholars to take on this fight. Indeed, we need to seek the support of communities when terrorists are released from prisons, working in partnership with the various protective services. It needs to be a joint effort.

What of those who can't (or won't) surrender ideas that are completely antithetical to our national values, even to what it is to be human? We must find ways to keep the door open for them to change. We've no clear idea about the relationship between time and desistence for this new generation of terrorists. But let's be straight: that open door needs to be behind high walls and in the confines of prison custody. If necessary: for ever.

> By arrangement with the **Spectator**

Silence is a route towards God

fied".



Dominic Emmanuel

n a world that is getting noisier by the day, including the "silent sound" of the social media, the modern person is losing a sense of silence and by extension, a sense of the divine. Can one really connect one's spirit with that of God's in a deafening marketplace?

I have been privileged to spend the last few weeks at some spiritual centres and will do so in the next two months too. The basic

requirement of these places surrounded by beautiful nature, is strict silence. Small signboards on pathways keep reinforcing it. The only sound that one hears, besides the sound of prayer and singing of hymns, is that of birds chirping. It is the peacocks' scream that wake us up by four in the morning.

In his book, "I want to see God", Rev. Marie Eugene writes, "God speaks in silence, and silence alone seems able to express Him.

has known the touch of God, silence and God

seem to be identi-Again Robert Cardinal Sarah in his book co-authored with Nicolas Diat, "*The* Power of Silence", says, "At the heart

of man there is an innate silence, for God abides in the innermost part of every person. God is silence, and this divine silence dwells in man. In God we are inseparably bound up with silence. The Church can affirm that mankind is the daughter of a

silent God...". While mystics and saints emphasise the importance of silence in one's search for God, modern day psychologists suggest silence even as therapy. For, it is in silence

For the spiritual person who alone that a person becomes aware of one's self and the problems that lie in

there, to uproot causes of unhappiness and turmoil in the subconscious.No wonder then that Jesus, despite being busy teaching and healing people was found "escaping"

into a quiet place to com-mune with God. Practice of such silence would be an appropriate preparation to enter into the eternal silence when we breathe our last and be united with God, whose language is silence.

Father Dominic Emmanuel,

a founder-member of the Parliament of Religions, can be contacted at frdominic@gmail.com

50 YEARS AGO IN hronicle

BKD-Congress (R) accord on ministry

LUCKNOW, FEB. 13. The Ruling Congress in Uttar Pradesh succeeded in their efforts to reach an understanding with the BKD on the formation of a Government in the State.

Mr. Charan Singh, BKD leader and Mr. D.P. Mishra of the Ruling Congress announced simultaneously tonight that 'complete accord" had been reached between the two parties in the formation of a Government.

While the terms of the agreement between the two parties have not been made known so far, it is understood that the Ruling Congress has, for the present "agreed to support a BKD government headed by Mr. Charan Singh.

This is the very real story of the Diamond Princess, part of the Princess Cruises Line, which has been docked at Yokohama harbour in Japan for the past week. The ship, which was guarantined after it was discovered that a passen-ger who had boarded it at an earlier port had been diagnosed with the novel coronavirus, has the highest number of confirmed cases for a single loca-tion outside of China. According to the latest count, 136 passengers have been found to have the coronavirus. According to Japanese health authorities, the passengers will be allowed to leave at the end of the two-week quarantine period on February 19, barring any

"special circumstances". There may well be "special circumstances". Experts have expressed concerns that the virus can spread even from asymptomatic individuals during its incubation period. Allowing the passengers and crew to disembark and catch a plane to their homes in Australia, Canada, the US and many other countries might mean that anyone who may have the virus could carry it to their countries.

For all of these reasons, the 3,700-plus people remain on the ship. A cruise ship that was supposed to be a vacation destination has become a floating prison. According to tweets and other reports, life on the ship is achingly boring and tedious. Even the best rooms are small, although passengers staying in these rooms at least have access to a balcony and hence fresh air. Those who have paid less are in interior rooms that have no windows at all. In these rooms, it is impossible to tell day from night, all of them melding into one long, interminable stretch. If the situation for the passengers is bad, that of the crew who continue to work non-stop below decks is even worse According to the New York Times, at least two crewmembers are assigned to each one of the tiny cabins that function as their living space. Three, sometimes four, people have to share a bathroom. It is no surprise that at least 10 of the peo-

By arrangement with **Dawn**



PREZ PRIMARIES

Democrats Abroad.

Massachusetts.

North Carolina.

Minnesota.

🛑 Oklahoma.

Tennessee.

Texas.

🛑 Utah.

Vermont.

Alabama.

Arkansas.

California.

Colorado.

Maine.

IN BRIEF Haftar forces ban UN flights

United Nations: Eastern Libyan forces have said they would not allow the United Nations to use the only functioning airport in the capital Tripoli, hours after the UN Security Council passed a resolution demanding the warring parties commit to a "lasting ceasefire". The self-styled Libya National Army (LNA) led by renegade military commander Khalifa Haftar has been trying to capture the capital city from the internationally recognised government since April. The UN ear-lier warned flight restrictions were hampering humanitarian and mediation efforts in the oil-producing country embroiled in a conflict between loose alliances from western and eastern Libva since 2014. The LNA, which is backed by Egypt and the United Arab Emirates, has been trying since last April to take Tripoli but has failed to breach the city's defences.

Sudan deal with **USS Cole** victims

Khartoum: Sudan's transitional government said Thursday t has reached a settlement with families of the victims of the 2000 attack on USS Cole in Yemen, in a bid to have the African country taken off the U.S. terrorism list and improve relations with the West. The settlement is the latest step from Khartoum to end its international pariah status. Earlier this week, Sudan's provisional rulers said they had agreed to hand over longtime autocrat Omar al-Bashir to the International Criminal Court to face trial on charges of war crimes and genocide during the fighting in the western Darfur region. Also, Sudan's interim leader, Gen. Abdel-Fattah Burhan, earlier this month met in Uganda with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who announced that Israel and Sudan would normalize relations after decades of enmity

Funding: Harvard, Yale under probe

Washington: The U.S. Depar-tment of Education says it is opening an investigation of Yale and Harvard universities for failing to disclose hundreds of millions of dollars in gifts and contracts from foreign donors. The two Ivy League schools have been singled out in a federal crackdown on institutions of higher learning for allegedly not reporting foreign donations of more than \$250,000, as required by law under Section 117 of the Higher Education Act. The Department of Education said Yale failed to disclosed a total of \$375 million in foreign money and that it was concerned that Harvard may not have fully complied with reporting requirements. "This is about transparency," Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos said in the statement. "If colleges and universities are accepting foreign money and gifts, their students, donors, and taxpayers deserve to know how much and from whom.'

Senate vote to rein in Prez

Use of forces against Iran only if Congress okays: Resolution

Washington, Feb. 13: The US Senate is scheduled to vote Thursday on a resolution calling for Pr-esident Donald Trump to "terminate the use of US Armed Forces for hostilities against Iran" unless those actions are autho-

rised by Congress. Trump rejects the meas-ure, arguing it would be dangerous to limit his war-making power, and ahead of the vote he urged the Republican-majority Senate to oppose it. "It is very important for

our Country's SECURITY that the United States Senate not vote for the Iran War Powers Resolution," Trump said on Twitter. "We are doing very well with Iran and this is not the time to show weakness." Trump tweeted, "Americans overwhelmingly support our attack" on Iranian Gen. Qassem Soleimani, killed in a Trumpordered drone strike last month at the Baghdad airport. "If my hands were tied, Iran would have a field day," he said. "Sends a very bad signal. The Democrats are only doing this as an attempt to embarrass the Republican Party. Don't let it happen!" Senators will vote on the resolution with the possibility that five Republicans will join the 47 Democrats in the 100-member chamber to approve the meas-ure. It is certain to face a

Trump veto, with support-

ers of the resolution unlikely to muster a two-thi-



President Donald Trump and First Lady Melania with Ecuadorian President Lenin Moreno and his wife Rocio -APGonzalez at the White House. Washington

Kaine, the resolution's sponsor, told the Senate: "The resolution before the body today is about Congress reclaiming its rightful role in decisions about war. The resolution is pre-tty simple. We should not be at war with Iran, unless Congress votes to authorise such a war." He added, "While the president must always have the ability to defend the United States from imminent attack, the executive power to initiate war stops there. An offensive war requires a congressional debate

– Agencies

rds vote to override it. Democratic Senator Tim and vote.'

Pro-Prez group raises \$60m

Washington, Feb. 13: Pro-Trump groups raised more than \$60 million in January and have more than \$200 million on hand for this year's general election, shattering fundraising records on the path toward a goal of raising \$1

billion this cycle. The Republican National Committee and President Donald Trump's campaign have raised more than \$525 million since the start of 2019 together with two joint-fundraising commit-

tees. The RNC and the Trpaign manager, Brad Pars ump campaign provided the figures to *The Associa-ted Press*. The January haul coincided with most of the Senate's impeachment trial, which resulted in the Republican president's acquittal earlier this mon-

th. RNC Chairwoman Ron-na McDaniel said, "We already have 500,000 volunteations and our strong funers trained and activated, draising numbers," Parsand this record-breaking cale said, "this campaign support is helping us grow is going to be unstoppable our grassroots army even more." Trump's 2020 camin 2020'

Terminal 21 inauguration

Super Tuesday: Poll in 12 states

Washington, Feb. 13: Nevada votes next and then South Carolina. But top Democrats vying for their party's presidential nomination are already looking ahead to the biggest prize on the primary calendar: Super Tuesday, the slate of contests when more than a dozen states go to the polls.

Senator Elizabeth War ren is holding a town hall on Thursday night in the Washington suburb of Arlington, Virginia, a day before Senator Bernie Sa nders makes two North Carolina stops, then hits Texas

Pete Buttigieg, the for-mer mayor of South Bend, Indiana, will campaign in California betwe en fundraisers in San Fr ancisco and Silicon Valley. All four states vote Ma-rch 3, along with a crush of others, from Alabama to Colorado and from Maine to Utah, as well as Warren's home state of Massachusetts and Sanders' native Vermont. More than 1,300 delegates to the Democratic National Co-

nvention are at stake, about a third of the total. The focus on Super Tue-sday comes at a pivotal point in the campaign. For Sanders and Buttigieg, who have emerged in strong positions after contests in Iowa and in New Hampshire, the travel gi-ves them an opportunity to show their national appeal and woo larger concentrations of nonwhite voters. For struggling ca-ndidates like Warren, it's

-AP

Virginia. a signal that they are still in the fight. And for everyone, it's a chance to prove they wo-n't cede this swath of delegate-rich states to Michael Bloomberg, the billio-naire former New York mayor who has spent months building his campa-ign around Super Tuesday. He campaigned in Tennessee on Wednesday and will be in Texas and North Carolina on Thursday.

-AP

US CARRIES OUT AIR STRIKE IN SYRIA, 1 KILLED

Strother.

'All bets are off this cycle," said Texas De-mocratic strategist Colin

Syria, Feb. 13: US warplanes carried out at least one airstrike in Syria's northeast Hasakah region. The airstrike reportedly comes after an incident at a checkpoint where US soldiers allegedly killed one civilian. The incident serves to highlight the complex situation in Syria, with the Assad regime and Russian forces battling to reclaim Idlib. However, Turkey's state-owned ne-ws agency named Anadolu declared that there were two airstrikes.

TV footage aired on Svrian channels displays residents responding to United States troops along with a man confronting American sol-

diers and requesting

them to leave the village.



Pervez Musharraf **BILAWAL APPEARS**



BEFORE NAB SHAFOAT ALI | DC



75 YEARS OF DRESDEN BOMBING

Dresen (Germany), Feb. 13: Germany's president is leading Thursday commemorations marking the 75th anniversary of Dresden's bombing by allied forces at the end of World War II, an event that has become a test for the way the country handles its Nazi past.

Historians say up to 25,000 people perished during the three-day bombardment from February 13-15, 1945, by American and British planes. That is comparable to the death toll in other large German cities. But the man-made firestorm, vividly captured by American author Kurt Vonnegut in his book "Slaughterhouse Five," and the destruction of large parts of the baroque city have become a rallying point for those seeking to portray Germans as victims in the war. The myth that as many as half a million civilians were killed in the bombing has been promoted by far-right activists for decades. Most recently their case has been taken up by members of the nationalist Alternative for Germany party, which has grown into a significant force in German politics since its founding seven years ago. The party, which goes by the German acronym AfD, has moved steadily to the right over the years.

handed down the death penalty to the 74-year-old retired general, now based in Dubai, after six years of hearing a highprofile treason case aga-

case

treason

inst him.

abad on December 17 last

The Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz govt led by former PM Nawaz Sharif had filed the treason case against the former army chief in 2013 over the imposition of an extraman constitutional emergency in Nov. 2007, which led to the confinement of a number of superior court judges in their houses and sacking of over 100 judges. However, last mo-

Pakistan People's Party (PPP) chief Bilawal Bhutto Thursday appe-ared before the National

Accountability Bureau (NAB) Rawalpindi in the JV (Joint Venture) Opal case. The anti-graft body handed over a question-naire comprising 32 questions to the PPP chairand summoned reply within two weeks.

According to details, Bilawal Bhutto recorded his statement before a four-member team headed by Director General NAB Rawalpindi Irfan nth Musharraf's trial in Naeem Mangi. He was inquired whether he is the director of the Zarthe high treason case was declared as "unconstitutional" by the LHC, leaddari Group of Comping to the annulment of anies. Bilawal Bhutto insisted to submit writthe death sentence against the former president. ten replies of various The LHC declared that the formation of the spequestions. He was handed over a questionnaire afterwards. The PPP chacial court was "unconstitutional" and that the irman talked to reporters after appearing before the NAB and said he is against Musharraf was not prepared in accordance with the law. —PTI being politically victim-ized. —*PTI*



Buddhist monks during a ceremony to reopen the Terminal 21 shopping mall at Nakhon Ratchasima in Thailand on Thursday.

Pak Taliban leader killed in blast

Peshawar, Feb. 13: A senior Pakistani Taliban commander was killed by a bomb in eastern Afghanistan, militant and intelligence sources said on Thursday, the latest such incident to target the group in recent days. Mehsud, Sheharyar chief of a militant faction which is part of the umbrella Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP, or Pakistani Taliban), was the target of the remote-controlled blast in Kunar province, a TTP commander in Pakistan said. A Pakistani intelligence official who confirmed

SHEHARYAR MEHSUD, chief of a militant faction which is part of the umbrella TTP, was the target of the remote-controlled blast.

the incident said Mehsud had fled to Afghanistan in 2016. The blast comes nearly two weeks after two other key TTP leaders -Khalid Haqqani and Qari Saifullah Peshawari — were killed in a clash with security forces. It

was not immediately clear who was behind the killings. They have come as the US and the Afghan Taliban — which is separate from the TTP appear close to a breakthrough on a deal for an American troop withdrawal from Afghanistan. Islamabad has helped to facilitate the gruelling talks, which have stretched over more than a year. Pakistan was one of only three countries to recognise the Afghan Taliban regime, and its shadowy military establishment particularly the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI)

— is widely believed to back the bloody insur-gency in Afghanistan. Islamabad denies the accusation.

Pakistan has been battling a homegrown Islamist insurgency for over a decade, with thousands of civilians and security personnel dying in extremist attacks, especially after the TTP began their campaign of violence in 2007. But overall levels of extremist-linked violence have dropped dramatically in recent years, with 2019 seeing the fewest deaths since 2007 —the year the TTP was formed. —*AFP*



Assad, who has found itself in disputes with both the United States and Turkey. Such is the drive of the Svrian autocrat who wishes to restore draconic Power and control over all of Syria



Representation only

COSTLY | RENOVATION Roof & dials destroyed in May 1941 air raid, repair bill increases by millions of pounds Nazi bombs damaged Big Ben more than thought



Picture for representation.

Big Ben clock tower has increased by millions of pounds after the discovery of World War II bomb damage, pollution and asbestos, Britain's parliament said Thursday. The cost of renovating the Elizabeth Tower hous-

London, Feb. 13: The bill to repair London's iconic

ing the famous clock, which began in 2017, is now set to rise to nearly GBP 80 million (\$104 million, 95 million euros).

The extensive damage requiring an extra GBP 18.6 million was only revealed once the project team was able to begin intrusive surveys for the

IAN AILLES, director-general of the House of Commons, said the task of restoring the Elizabeth Tower "had been more complex than we could have anticipated".

first time ever on the 177year-old structure. However, the efforts to restore the tower "to its previous splendour" remain on track for completion in late 2021, according to officials.

A spokesperson for the House of Commons Commission, which is overseeing the project, called the spiralling costs "very frustrating". Ian Ailles, director general of the House of

Commons, said the task of restoring the Elizabeth Tower "had been more complex than we could have anticipated". "With a 12m square (130

square feet) footprint and a prime location right in the middle of a busy working Parliament, under-standing the full extent of the damage to the tower was impossible until the scaffolding was up," he

added. The work is to repair the clock faces and mechanism, cracks in the tower's masonry and corrosion in the roof, as well as to restore the edging around the clock faces to its original 19th-century colour.

lift will also be Α installed as an alternative to the steps up the tower, and the lights illuminating the clock will be replaced by low-energy LEDs. The renovations have meant Big Ben — whose chimes feature on British television and radio news bul-letins — has been largely silent since 2017.

China on Thursday repor-ted 254 fatalities from the

coronavirus outbreak the highest in a single day

and double than the previ-

ous record high — taking the toll to 1,367, as author-ities adopted a new diag-

nosis method amid con-

cerns that the crisis is no-

where near slowing down

contrary to official projec-

tions. China's central Hu-

bei province, the epicentre

of the virus outbreak, reported 242 deaths and nea-

rly 15,000 fresh cases on

Wednesday, said Mi Feng,

a spokesperson with the National Health Commis-

came from other provinc-

es, including two in Hen-

an, and one in Tianjin, Hebei, Liaoning, Heilongj-iang, Anhui, Shandong, Guangdong, Guangxi, Hai-

nan, and the Xinjiang Pro-duction and Construction

Corps, respectively. The total deaths from the

more than two-month-old

virus outbreak as reported on Thursday stood at

1,367, with the total numb-

er of confirmed cases mo-unting to 59,804, health of-

ficials were quoted as say-

ing by the state-run Xin-

hua news agency. The Philippines reported the first death outside China from

the virus. So far 445 cases

have been reported from

about 26 countries includ-

ing three from India.

sion.

Twelve fatalities

IN BRIEF **Bezos sets record**

S165m home buv

San Francisco: Billionaire Amazon chief Jeff Bezos has purchased a Los Angelesarea estate for \$165 million. setting a new record for the region, The Wall Street Journal reported on Wednesday. Bezos bought the Warner Estate from media mogul David Geffen, according to the Journal. It said the deal topped a Los Angelesarea home price record set last year when Lachlan Murdoch paid around \$150 million for a Bel-Air estate seen in "The Beverly Hillbillies," a 1960s television show. The Warner Estate spans nine acres (3.6 hectares) in Beverly Hills. It is a Georgian-style compound with a floor once owned by Napoleon, guest houses, a tennis court, and a nine-hole golf course.

Mars: Salt water may form annually

Washington: Salt water may form on the surface of Mars for a few days annually, according to a study. Researchers at the Planetary Science Institute in the US noted that liquid water is difficult to come by on the Red Planet, because ice rapidly dissipates into the atmosphere long before it reaches its melting point. This is because the atmospheric pressure on Mars lies near the triple point pressure of water molecules (H2O), the minimum pressure necessary for liquid water to exist, they said. "Mars has plenty of cold ice-rich regions and plenty of warm ice-free regions, but icy regions where the temperature rises above the melting point are a sweet spot that is nearly impossible to find," said Norbert Schorghofer, a senior scientist at Planetary Science Institute.

OXFORD AMENDS 'YID' TO INCLUDE SPURS FANS

London, Feb. 13: The Oxford English Dictionary has updated its definition of the word "Yid" to include "a supporter of or player for Tottenham Hotspur Football Club", publishers announced Wednesday. The word has often been deployed as a term of abuse against Jews but a section of Spurs' support has taken to using it in terrace chants. North London club Tottenham have traditionally drawn a significant number of fans from the area's local Jewish commu-

254: China's highest single day deaths

Authorities adopt a new diagnosis method after fatalities from the deadly coronavirus reach 1,367

JAPAN WOMAN WITH Beijing/Wuhan, Feb. 13: **VIRUS DIES AS CRUISE** SHIP CASES SOAR

Yokohama, Feb. 13: Jap-an on Thursday reported the first death of a person infected with novel coronavirus, as the number of cases on a quarantined cruise ship offshore soared over 200.

The woman in her 80s was tested for the virus after being hospitalised, and was confirmed positive after her death, Health Minister Katsunobu Kato told a news briefing. However, it was not clear if the virus or other complications had caused her dea-th, Kato warned. "The relationship between the new coronavirus and the death of the person is still unclear." In addition to the cases on the ship and a quarantine officer, Jap-an has confirmed 28 other infections — mostly am-ong evacuees from Hubei. The Diamond Princess cruise ship off Yokohama has become the single largest cluster of cases outside China, with 218 testing positive for the COVID-19 virus. — AFP

China's central Hubei province reported **242** deaths and nearly

15,000 fresh cases.

2 officials replaced

has been appointed as the new Hubei party secreta-

ry, replacing Jiang Chaol-

iang. The leader of Wuhan

city, Ma Guoqiang, 56, has been replaced by Wang Zh-

onglin, 57, the party secre-

tary of Shandong's provi-

ncial capital Jinan. Jiang,

61, is the highest-ranking

political casualty so far in the virus outbreak. — *PTI*

Amid growing public ang-er over the handling of the crisis, the ruling Commu-The total number of confirmed cases nist Party of China repla mounted to 59,804. ced two high-ranking offi So far 445 cases cials in Hubei province, where coronavirus first have been reported emerged in late December from about 26 counin provincial capital Wutries, including three han. Xinhua reported that from India. former Shanghai Mayor Ying Yong, 61, a close ally of President Xi Jinping,

"NOW WE need to cooperate as required. Our whole Wuhan, it's a 'War' period. Hope everyone understands. And, knows the situation," says a Hubei University notice

Virus cannot pass from pregnant mom to baby



Masked passengers are seen on the deck of the Diamond Princess docked at Yokohama port, near Tokyo, on Thursday.

Beijing mobilises masses in people's fight She said she follows the **Beijing, Feb. 13:** Banners rallying the nation behind INDIAN AND PAKISTANI STUDENTS IN WUHAN PANIC

a cause and panicked citi-Beijing, Feb. 13: Indian zens who hide in their homes and report on each and Pakistani students in China's Hubei province, other: China's Communist Party has deployed an old the epicentre of the corontoolkit to battle a new avirus outbreak. have enemy. Authorities have made desperate pleas to tapped their propaganda their governments to evacpowers to wage what President Xi Jinping has uate them after Chinese officials decided to condubbed a "people's war" against the new coron-avirus that has killed vert their university gymnasiums and dormitories into makeshift hospitals more than 1,300 people and amid a big surge in infec-Xi has paid tribute to "comrades... on the front-line" while state media has

tion cases. Three Indian students studying at Hubei Unive-rsity of Chinese Medicine

mobilise the masses. Zhao Yiling has not left made desperate pleas to the Indian government to evacuate them after the university announced plans to convert the gym into a hospital. India has already evacuated 647 Indian nationals, mostly students from Wuhan and Hubei. Ten Indians could not board the two special flights due to fever. Indian officials say 80 to 100 Indians are still left in the area. About 1,000 Pakistani st-

go out, so I'm not going Beijing since January 23. Zhao Yiling has not left her apartment in eastern have to be patient and not

stan government came under heavy criticism for not evacuating them. A number of Pakistani students too have complained that the dormitories are being converted into hospitals with virus patients. Pakistani daily Dawn reported Prime Minister Imran Khan on Wednesday directing the Foreign Office to take every possible step to help Pakistani students stuck in novel coronavirus (NCV)-hit Wuhan city of China. -PTIudents are currently in Hubei province. The Pakidirectives of the neighbourhood committee which enforce the orders of the ruling Communist Party -- to the letter.

They have been the ones applying discipline applying discipline around registration and self-quarantine for people returning from hard-hit areas. But she admits that amid the constant message ing from the government, she is now "terrified" about the virus.

Outside her residence, a banner with large white characters on a red background has been hung. calling for the epidemic to be brought under control. "Track, alert, isolate and treat as quickly as possi-ble." it reads. — AFP

out. I obey," said the 57year-old housewife. Fear more harmful than the virus

Beijing, Feb. 13: Even as the number of new coronavirus cases being detectfrom its head office on Wednesday after a confirmed coronavirus case

Prime

nity and this has led to anti-Semitic abuse from rival teams.

The OED, regarded as the leading dictionary of British English, has also added the closely related word "Yiddo" among a number of changes and new entries made in January.

The dictionary's publisher, the Oxford University Press (OUP), said in a statement issued Wednesday the word is "offensive and labelled as derogatory"

'As we state at the closely related word YID... Tottenham Hotspur Football Club is traditionally associated with the Jewish community in north and east London, and the term is sometimes used as a self-designation by some Tottenham fans," the OUP statement added. "We will ensure the context for this connection is very clear in both definitions.

The words derive from the Yiddish term for Jew but are thought to have been taken up as an insult during the 20th Century.

Beijing, Feb.13: Researchers have found that the

deadly coronavirus disease (COVID-19) cannot be passed from mother to child late in pregnancy, a study has revealed.

According to the study, published in the journal The Lancet, there is currently no evidence that the COVID-19 causes severe adverse outcomes in neonates or that it can pass to the child while in the womb.

In the study, there were two cases of fetal distress, but all nine pregnancies resulted in live births.The testing research also revealed that symptoms from COVID-19 infection in pregnant women were similar to those reported in non-pregnant adults, womb. and no women in the study developed severe

pneumonia or died.

The new study comes

after the news of a new-

born (born to a mother

European Union health ministers agreed to boost preparations and organise a coordinated response to prevent the virus that emerged in China, from further spreading across Europe. "Fragmentation of effort will make us"

all collectively more vulnerable. Unity on our part would also support China's efforts to contain the virus, and mitigate any further transmission within and into the EU," said European health commissioner Stella Kyriakides.

infected with COVID-19) whether intrauterine infection is possible." said positive for COVID-19 infection within study lead author Yuanzhen Zhang, Zhongnan Hospital of Wuhan Unive-36 hours of birth, which prompted questions about rsity in China. "Nonetheless, we should whether the virus could be contracted in the

continue to pay special attention to newborns "It is important to note that many important clinborn to mothers with ical details of this case are COVID-19 pneumonia to missing, and for this reahelp prevent infections in son, we cannot conclude this group," Zhang added. one case —Agencies

infected nearly 60,000.

heralded the importance

of patriotism in tackling

the outbreak in a cam-

paign reminiscent of Chairman Mao's cries to

ed each day are dropping fears over the outbreak refuse to cease. The viral infection has so far killed over 1,100 people in China - the epicentre of the outbreak — with 97 more deaths recorded Wednesday. Despite the death toll, the novel coronavirus epidemic, later renamed by the WHO as COVID-19, is not a life-threatening illness

Most of the infections are in Hubei in China, though the daily tally of new cases detected in the province fell when compared to previous days. Hubei recorded 2.097 new cases Monday, compared to 2,618 a day earlier. The total number of cases have now hit 44,653, including 2,015 new cases on Tuesday, the lowest daily rise in new cases since January 30. In comparison to the

SARS epidemic of 2002-2003. the novel coronavirus is less fatal than CoV).

11

Paul Molesky (L) gets a DNA swab test in his cabin room on the Diamond Princess, anchored at a port in Yokohama, near Tokyo on Thursday. - AP

the epidemic which result-Singaporean Minister Lee Hsien Loong, ed in around 800 deaths 17 years ago. Like the 2019in a video message to his nCoV or Wuhan virus. citizens, has underlined severe acute respiratory how "fear can do more harm than the virus itself." Singapore has syndrome (SARS) is also caused due to a type of Singapore has coronavirus, called the SARS coronavirus (SARSreported 47 cases of coronavirus. Its biggest bank, DBS, evacuated 300 staff

in the building, according to sources

Emphaising his administration's preparedness to with cases, Lee deal appealed to citizens to remain calm and not give in to rumour-mongering "Having overcome SARS once, we know that we can pull through this too," he says in the video in a comforting tone, explaining how the virus isn't as fatal as it is made out to be.

SARS infected 8,000 peo ple the world over and resulted in over 800 deaths, which gives a mortality rate of roughly 10 per cent.

So far, with more than 40,000 cases and a little over 1000 deaths, the mortality rate for nCoV is roughly 0.2 per cent. Seasonal influenza, meanwhile, has a mortality rate of 0.1 per cent. "So, in terms of mortality, the new virus is much closer to influenza than sars, —AF Lee said.

GOOD INEWS Signals end to months-long crisis that claimed 33 lives nationwide Oz bushfires contained: Firefighters

from this



The fires had affected millions of Australians.

- AFP

Sydney, Feb. 13: All the blazes in Australia's hardhit state of New South Wales have been brought under control, firefighters said on Thursday, signalling the end of a monthslong crisis that claimed 33 lives nationwide.

"As of this afternoon, all fires in New South Wales have now been contained,' a Rural Fire Service spokesman told AFP, as fresh rainfall helped extinguish blazes that have burned along the east coast since September. "It is very good news." Blazes scorched more than 10 million hectares in the country's east and south, killing at least 33 people and an estimated one billion ani-

mals while destroying more than 2,500 homes. The crisis cloaked major cities like Sydney in smoke for weeks on end, saw towns cut off and prompted the deployment of the military to rescue stranded citizens.

The fires were exacerbated by prolonged drought and worsened by climate change in the country's hottest and driest year on record. But days of rainfall the heaviest in 30 years have extinguished the largest fires and brought those that remain under control. Beleaguered volunfirefighters have teer fought the blazes day-inday-out in what has been described as Australia's "black summer"

"After what's been a truly devastating fire season for both firefighters and residents who have suffered through so much this season, all fires are now conin New South New South Wales tained Wales," Rural Fire Service Deputy Commissioner Rob Rogers said in a Twitter video. "Not all fires are out, there's still some fire activity in the far south of the state but all fires are contained so we can really focus on helping people rebuild." In the Australian Capital Territory around Canberra firefighters are still trying to bring one fire under control, but the blaze was not said to be threaten--AFP ing.

INDONESIAN VOLCANO SPEWS LAVA, ASH



Molten lava streams down the crater of Mount Merapi on Thursday. - AFP



DECCAN CHRONICLE | HYDERABAD | FRIDAY | 14 FEBRUARY 2020



0

Integrated Textile Parks

(SITP) approved during the 10th Five Year Plan in

2005 has met with limited success. While 59 textile parks were sanctioned under SITP by the

Ministry of Textiles, only

22 have been completed

The rest are under various

stages of completion, as

Delay in obtaining land

and other statutory clear-

ances from state govern-

ments and slow fund

mobilisation by the textile parks are some of the rea-

sons behind the slow

initially announced fund-ing for the land. But later

on, it removed that incen-

tive. This also made sever-

al private entities develop

He said perhaps some of the existing parks could be transformed into mega

textile parks, but all parks

According to him, a big-

ger necessity for the tex-

tile industry is processing

parks, with government

funded or subsidised com-

mon affluent treatment

cannot be upgraded.

cold feet on the parks,

said Jain.

facilities

The government had

progress of the parks.

per the ministry data.

quick BIES

INDICATO	%	
Sensex	41,459.79	-0.26
Nifty 50	12,174.70	-0.22
S&P 500*	3,375.74	-0.11
Dollar (₹)	71.32	-0.02
Pound Sterling (₹)	92.59	-0.03
Euro (₹)	77.52	-0.45
Gold (10gm)* (₹)	41,484 ▲ 266	0.64
Brent crude (\$/bbl)*	56.18	0.39
IN 10-Yr bond yield	6.423	-0.049
US 10-Yr T-bill yield*	1.619	-0.008
* As of 9:30 pm IST		

Voda Idea losses widen to ₹6,439 crore

Vodafone Idea reported widening of losses to Rs 6,438.8 crore in the December quarter against Rs 5.004.6 crore in the year-ago quarter due to higher finance costs and depreciation. Its total income fell by 5% to Rs 11,380.5 crore. Finance costs surged 30% to Rs 3,722.2 crore while depreciation went up by 23% to Rs 5,877.4 crore. The telco's losses are substantially lower than Rs 50,922 crore suffered in the September quarter.

Homecoming for Rajiv Bansal as Air India CMD



Senior bureaucrat Rajiv Bansal, who headed Air India for three months in 2017, was on Thursday appointed as the carrier's chairman and managing director, a personnel ministry order said. Bansal, a 1988-batch IAS officer of Nagaland cadre, is at present additional secretary in the Ministry of

Murthy son-in-law is viewed as "next prime minister" **Chancellor of Exchequer Sunak is ardent Brexiteer**

ALEX MORALES, JOE MAYES & JESSICA SHANKLEMAN FEB. 13

Who is Rishi Sunak, the man who in a stunning turn of events was appointed UK Chancellor of the Exchequer less than a month before the first budget of Boris Johnson's new government?

The former Goldman Sachs banker and son-inlaw of Infosys co-founder Narayana Murthy is 39 and has been viewed as a rising star in the Conservative Party, with the ConservativeHome website anointing him "the next prime minister" earlier in the year. In July he was made chief secretary to the Treasury--the second most important job in the finance ministry.

His appointment, and the dramatic circumstance in which his predecessor quit, have created a stir and raise questions abut the direction of economic policy on the heels of Brexit

Pakistan-origin Sajid Javid also had a back-Sajid ground in finance but goes down in history as the shortest-serving finance minister in the country since 1970. He was seen as fiscal hawk. Under the new guy, there may be what Citi calls a "Trump-style stimulus." This debate comes after a decade of austerity under the Conservatives

the Conservatives. Sunak is a more pro-Brexit chancellor than Javid, who campaigned for Remain back in 2016 (Sunak was a Leaver). In 2017, he co-authored an article highlighting five

SANGEETHA G

CHENNAI, FEB. 13

over the previous year.

between 2015 and 2019.

malls are doing excellent

business today - and investors are keenly vying for such projects," said Shobhit Agarwal, MD and

According to Anarock,

PE funds see the ongoing consumerism slump in

CEO, Anarock Capital.



His voting history shows he's an ardent Brexiteer, supports reductions in corporation tax, cuts to capital gains tax and he's gone on the record as favouring infrastructure investment **CAPITAL ECONOMICS**

benefits of Brexit, including striking new trade deals, improving regulation and being free of EU state aid rules.

"It's time to shout about that idealistic and hopeful vision for post-Brexit Britain," he wrote. "Opportunities like these are what Brexit means to

Sunak co-founded a 1-billion pound global invest-ment firm and specialised in investing in small British businesses before his entry into politics. He strongly believes that small businesses in the UK would flourish as a result of Brexit as the "vast majority of British businesses (94 per cent) don't have anything to do with

India as a seasonal phe-

nomenon and hope that

the EU; but they are still subject to all EU law". Sunak entered Parliament in 2015, elected to represent Richmond in Yorkshire. Theresa May

appointed him as a junior minister and he went on to back Johnson in last year's leadership campaign in a joint piece in The Times. That earned him a promotion to the cabinet when Johnson won.

The pound rose on the news, on expectation that the new chancellor will loosen the purse strings. According to a research note by Capital Economics, his previous votes in Parliament "suggest his views are perhaps more aligned with those of the Prime Minister and

Damanis to sell

2.3% in Avenue

for over ₹3K cr

RAVI RANJAN PRASAD

his Chief Special Adviser Dominic Cummings than Javid's.

"His voting history shows he's an ardent Brexiteer, supports reductions in corporation tax, cuts to capital gains tax and he's gone on the record as favouring infra-structure investment," the note said. "So this is either going to be a meeting of minds or Sunak will be the Prime Minister's yes man living in Number 11." He's frequently been sent

out by the government to do the morning round of TV and radio interviews, a clear sign that he's seen by Number 10 as a solid per-former. Notably, he deputised for Johnson in leadership televised debates during the election campaign. A Hindu and son of a

doctor and a pharmacist, Sunak attended Winchester College, one of the country's most prestigious private schools. before studying at Oxford and Stanford Universities. graduating, he After Goldman worked for Sachs, before spending about three years at billionaire activist hedge manager Chris fund Hohn's TĊI Fund Management. Later he moved on to join his TCI colleague Patrick hedge fund Degorce's hedge Theleme Partners.

Sunak married to Murthy, the Akshata daughter of Narayana Murthy. They have two daughters together. On his own website, Sunak lists his hobbies as keeping fit, soccer, cricket and the movies

-Bloomberg

Yes Bank delays quarterly results

Management, OHA (UK)

MUMBAI, Feb. 13: Troubled lender Yes Bank said it will delay disclosing October-December earnings by at least a month, and that it was in potential with investors for a cash infusion, sending its shares up almost 6 per cent in Thursday's trade. Yes Bank, in a regulatory filing late on Wednesday, said it had received nonbinding expressions of interest from JC Flowers, Park Capital Tilden

FC BUREAU

PavPal

MUMBAI, FEB.13

Edelweiss Mutual Fund

has a new fund offer, Edelweiss US Technology

Equity Fund of Fund,

which will be investing in

technology companies in

the United States like

the one Synopsys, Netflix, Synopsys, Microsoft, Tesla, Advanced Micro Devices, Analog Devices, ServiceNow, Microsoft, Tesla, Advanced

Alphabet (Google's parent).

fund or feeder fund that

It will be the first fund of

Holdings and

S&P swears by India story, leaves rating unchanged

FC BUREAU IEW DELHI, FEB 13

Anticipating the country's economic growth to gradually recover over the next two to three years, global ratings agency Standard and Poor's, on Thursday, affirmed India's sover-eign rating at 'BBB-' with stable outlook. It further said the gross domestic product, or GDP, growth is expected to improve to 6 per cent during 2020-21, 7 per cent in the next fis-cal and 7.4 per cent thereafter.

"Despite a notable deceleration in India's economy in recent quarters, we believe its struc-tural growth outperformance remains intact. Real GDP growth is therefore likely to gradually recover toward longer-term trend rates over the next two to three years," S&P said in a statement.

"We expect India's economy to continue to outperform peers at a similar level of income, despite a recent slowdown in real GDP growth. Supportive monetary, fiscal, and cyclical factors should support economic recovery, with real GDP growth averaging 7.1 per cent in fiscals 2020-2024," it said.

Pointing out that India's fiscal position remains precarious, with elevated fiscal deficits and net government indebtedness, the said, "Fiscal agency, deficits have exceeded the government's plan and there may be some limited consolidation over the next few years.

Textile industry seeks basic means before mega parks

■ More than half the parks under SITP yet to take off

SANGEETHA G CHENNAI, FEB. 13

The government will be announcing plans to develop 10 mega textile parks for promoting exports in its new National Textile Policy. However, not even half of the textile parks approved in 2005 have been completed yet.

Moreover, it is also felt that the industry badly needs processing parks rather than mega parks at this stage.

The 10 mega integrated textile parks will be devel-oped in 1,000 acres of land closer to the ports. This will give plug-and-play facilities, including safeguard measures in the labour laws, textile secretary Ravi Capoor said on Thursday during a meeting of the Confederation Indian Textile Industry (CITI).

According to Sanjay Jain, former chairman of CITI, scale of production is a major problem for the Indian textile industry. "Large integrated parks can provide the scale at which other textile pro-ducing countries work. It will also help the industry attract foreign direct investment. However, I am not sure whether this is a priority, as we had mixed success with the textile parks already approved by the government in the past," he said.

for Scheme



exchanges that it will publish its unaudited financial The

and Silver Point Capital. also contending with a rise "Given that the current in bad loans and, for two capital raising process has quarters, has been trying the bank's fullest attention, to raise \$2 billion in fresh it would like to inform the

The

capital. Yes Bank, whose shares have slumped more than 85

former board member. It is

etroleum and Natural Gas. He replaces Ashwani Lohani, who completed his one-year extended tenure on Thursday.

GMR Infra's net loss shrinks to ₹279 crore in Q3

GMR Infrastructure Ltd's consolidated net loss for the December guarter narrowed to Rs 279 crore against Rs 542 crore in the year-ago quarter. Consolidated gross revenues were higher at Rs 2,196 crore against Rs 1,958 crore a year ago. Revenues from the airports segment stood at Rs 1,615.2 crore against Rs 1,358.3 crore while the power vertical garnered Rs 207.2 crore against Rs 145.7 crore.

Apollo Hospitals net jumps 80% to ₹90 crore

Apollo Hospitals Enterprise reported a 80.36 per cent rise in consolidated net profit at Rs 89.96 crore for the December quarter from Rs 49.87 crore in the year-ago guarter. Consolidated revenue from operations stood at Rs 2,911.74 crore against Rs 2,495.04 crore. The board has declared an interim dividend of Rs 3.25 per equity share of Rs 5 face value for the financial year ending March 31, 2020.

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enthusiastic government Despite the slowdown in backing to the retail sector will cause the tide to turn consumption, private equity funds are quite optiin the near future. Apart from the top cities, mistic about the long-term prospects of mall propertier- II and III cities are ties. PE funds' investment also on the radar of many

PE funds put more

money into malls

into retail real estate grew PE funds which see these almost three-fold in 2019 cities actively driving the retail business, going for-ward. At least 36 per cent of retail-focused funds went to cities like Ahmedabad, Amritsar, Bhubaneshwar, Chandi Retail real estate grabbed \$970 million PE funds in 2019 against \$355 million in the previous year, regis-Bhubaneshwar, Chandi-garh, Nagpur and Mohali. tering a growth of 173 per cent. Overall PE inflows into Indian retail touched JLL says rising incomes \$2.8 billion in the five years increasing awareness and high aspirations in tier- II "Investors are betting big and III markets spell a big on selected Grade A mall opportunity for retailers. projects which have high These locations are unexscope of business profplored and real estate cost itability. Despite the con-sumption slump, many here is 30-40 per cent lower

than that in metros. By industry estimates, the market size of tier- II and III markets would grow from \$5.7 billion in 2018 to \$80 billion by 2026. Around 50-60 per cent of expansion by modern trade is taking place in tier- II and III markets.

MUMBAI, FEB, 13

The

promoters Avenue Supermart that operates the DMart superstore chain would sell a 2.28 per cent in the stake company through an offer for sale on

February 14 and 17. The OFS will fetch Radhakishan S. Damani , Gopikishan S. Damani, Shrikantadevi R. Damani and Kirandevi G. Damani more than Rs 3,000 crore at the floor price, fixed at Rs 2,049 per share.

Supermart Avenue shares closed 2.31 per cent up at Rs 2,539.60 on the NSE on Thursday. In a stock exchange filing, the company said the OFS would be for sale of up to 1,48,00,000 equity shares and date of the opening of the offer for non-retail investors is February 14 and and for retail investors, February 17.

results for the quarter and nine month period ending Dec. 31, 2019 on or before March 14, 2020," the bank said in the filing.

earnings delay comes as the bank fends off criticism of its corporate governance levelled by a

Edelweiss FoF to invest in US tech firms

will invest in underlying fund, JP Morgan US Technology Fund, an

actively managed 20-year-

old fund. The new fund

offer opens on February 14

and closes on February 28.

The fund aims to provide

access to emerging tech-

nologies in early stages of

adoption. "This is the first

time that Indian investors

will be able to take expo-

sure to these emerging

technologies across differ-

ent sectors, through the

underlying fund," Edel-

weiss Mutual Fund said.

per cent in the last 10 months, recently appoint ed global investment bank Cantor Fitzgerald headed by former Deutsche Bank chief executive Anshu Jain to ramp up its effort to raise capital. - Reuters

Radhika Edelweiss

JPMorgan

Technology Index.

Team.

1000

Gupta, CEO,

Management, said,"Most of

these companies draw

their revenues from across

the world, hence have lim-

ited country specific risks. This fund enables

This fund enables investors to be a part of

some mega trends in tech-

nology and get access to

expert research of the

The fund will be bench-

marked against the Russell

chase of 126 fighter jets in

2015 and instead bought 36

Rafale jets separately. In

Equal Weighted

Asset

enables

Investment

MICHAEL GONSALVES PUNE, FEB. 13

Jaguar Land Rover (JLR), the Tata Motorsowned British luxury marquee, on Thursday launched the heavily refreshed Land Rover Discovery Sport SUV to boost sales in a

depressed economy. JLR is the only luxury car brand to record growth in India in 2019. Its sales last year grew 9 per cent at 5,000 cars in India compared to 4,596 units in 2018 to beat Audi and become the third largest after Mercedes-Benz and BMW.

All luxury carmakers in India recorded degrowth last year. Market leader Mercedes' sales fell 11 per cent to 13,786 units in 2019, BMW's sales dropped by 13 per cent at 9,641 units, Audi's 29 per cent to 4,594 units and Volvo Cars' 15 per cent to 2.253 units.

The second-generation Discovery Sport, which made its global debut in May 2019, is offered in two variants—S and R— Dynamic SE at Rs 57.06 lakh and Rs 60.89 lakh respectively at pan India showroom.

In India, the new SUV competes with BMW X3, Mercedes-Benz GLC, Audi Q5 and Volvo XC60.

Built on the Evoque Transverse Archi-tecture, which makes it ready for shift to electric power in the future, the new Discovery Sport comes with BS-6-compliant 2.0-litre petrol and diesel Ingenium engines.

A nine-speed automatic unit handles transmission duties inside the Discovery Sport 2020.

What is special in the new car is that it now comes with mild hybrid option which allows the Discovery Sport to cruise at speeds under 18 kmph with the engine off.

-Bloomberg

Fund crunch leaves military purchases a pipe dream

ANURAG KOTOKY & BIBHUDATTA PRADHAN FEB. 13

Global companies from Lockheed Martin to Sweden's Saab AB are offering military hardware from submarines to helicopters to the Indian government as part of its \$250 billion defence modernisation programme. But bureaucratic delays and a funding crunch has made future deals next to impossible. Airbus SE won a \$1.7 billion contract to supply transport planes to the Indian Air Force in 2015-it's India's first military agreement since 1962. Five years later, that deal is yet to be signed.

India's inability to speed up the modernisation of its weaponry shows the government's challenge to transform an industry

plagued by red tape. While New Delhi is the world's fourth-biggest military spender, its air force, navy and the army are still equipped with weapons that are largely obsolete.

"The defence procurement procedure needs major, thorough reforms, not just an update," said Jon Grevatt, the Asia-Pacific defense industry analyst with Jane's, adding the complex approval processes and lack of finances are the main drag on military modernisation. "Unless the government really introduces major reforms into its procurement process then we will continue see delays."

An air of despondency hung over the gathering of top arms manufacturers last week in Lucknow. Executives heard Prime Minister Narendra Modi



and defence minister Rajnath Singh extolling the need to modernise, collaborate and export out of India, while remaining silent on future orders.

A historic mandate about six years ago handed Modi a unique opportunity to aggressively buy arms, without fearing the politi-cal opposition that often derails such purchases. But implementation has been poor. The prime minister has missed that window of opportunity, at least seven executives said, asking not

to be identified A defence ministry spokesman wasn't immediately available to comment. About 60 per cent of defence spending goes to paying salaries for India's 1.3 million soldiers -- one of the world's largest standing armies. What's left is spent on past purchases, leaving the forces with obsolete

equipment and not enough ammunition.

India's spending in the year starting April 1 will be \$47.34 billion, of which \$16.2 billion is for capital expenditure and of that, about 90 per cent is devoted to existing obligations and committed liabilities. That leaves little to meet demands for weapons purchases and modernisation. The political leadership is

aware of the need for modern weapons. The mainstay for Indian Army's artillery are the Swedish-designed Bofors guns bought in the 1980s, while the air force and navy have an ageing fleet of Soviet-era aircraft

The process to buy fighter jets started more than a decade ago. When talks stalled over price and quality guarantees, the government scrapped the pur-

base, the Modi government has revised defence procurement procedures, pushed for long-term strategic partnerships between Indian companies

and global equipment manufacturers, further eased overseas investment regulations and diversified weapons suppliers. Still, a parliamentary panel said implementation

of the strategic partnership model which envis aged private players building military platforms like submarines and fighter jets in partnership with major global defence companies remains a non-starter.

and warships.

2018, it began the process to buy another 114 aircraft. Aiming to develop a robust military industrial







Sikhs wear Kobe Bryant t-shirts during a prayer meet organised for the Los Angeles Lakers legend at Gurdwara Nanaksar in Fresno city, California, USA.

Tribute to Kobe at **USA Gurudwara**

New York: Several Sikhs wearing Kobe Bryant t-shirts in the US state of California organised a prayer meeting for the basketball legend who was killed in a helicopter crash outside Los Angeles last month. The meet was organised in Gurdwara Nanaksar in Fresno city on Monday, ahead of a memorial service for Bryant and his daughter Gianna on February 24 at the Staples Center in downtown Los Angeles. Bryant was a household name in every Sikh home, according to basketball media outlet Ball Don't Stop which posted on Twitter a picture of the Gurdwara showing Sikh worshippers praying for the basket-ball legend. "Sikhs praying for Kobe and the victims at the temple. This hits home. Kobe Bryant was a household name in every Sikh home. Your grandpa and grandma didn't know what hoop was, but they knew Kobe. They know how special he was,' it said in a tweet. KOBE, DAUGHTER BURIED Meanwhile, Kobe Bryant and his daughter Gianna were buried

last week near their family home in Newport Beach, California, in a private ceremony. A death certificate states that Kobe was buried last Friday at Pacific View Memorial Park in Corona del Mar, US media reported

Ngidi stars in SA's one-run victory

East London, South Africa: Fast bowler Lungi Ngidi took three wickets in his last two overs as South Africa snatched a one-run win in the first Twenty20 against England at Buffalo Park. Jason Roy and Eoin Morgan hit half-centuries for England and they looked well on the way to chasing South Africa's 177 for 8. But the match changed in the last three overs as England lost six wickets for 24 runs to finish on 176 for nine on Wednesday. England needed just seven to win off the last over but Ngidi dismissed Tom Curran and oeen all while conceaing only five runs. Adil Rashid was run out off the last ball, trying for an improbable second run which would have tied the scores. - AFP

Dress rehearsal

Finding opening combination, lone spinner on agenda as India meet NZ XI in warm-up match

Hamilton, Feb. 13: Clarity on opening combi-nation, a call on whether Ravichandran Ashwin's variations can trump Ravindra Jadeja's all-round skill-sets will be the focus for India in their three-day warm-up game against. Now game against New Zealand XI starting here

on Friday. After the harsh reality check of 0-3 drubbing in the just-concluded ODI series, a red-ball warm-up game will be the most welcome distraction for Virat Kohli and his men as a precursor to the twomatch Test series starting next week.

India could not have asked for a better practice game as the opposition team is full of New Zealand senior and A team players, including leg-spinner Ish Sodhi, allrounder Jimmy Neesham and wicketkeeper Tim

Seifert, in its ranks. The inclusion of first team white ball pacers Scott Kuggeliejn and Blair Tickner will be the kind of test which both Prithvi Shaw and Shubman Gill will relish as they make a case for their inclusion in the playing XI for the first Test starting in Wellington on February

Shubman will be itching to show his skipper that he is ready for the big debut which is eagerly anticipated among his growing legion of fans, despite his international career being two-match old. A flat track like the one at Seddon Park will also be a test for the two frontline spinners with Ashwin and Jadeja getting a chance to test the likes of Daryl Mitchell, Tom Bruce and Seifert in action

A good show on a flat deck can improve Ashwin's chances of toppling Jadeja even though the proposition looks dim at the moment.

For the New Zealand XI. there is Dane Cleaver, who has had scores of 196 and 53 in the two A 'Tests' against India. He would like to impress the selectors and get into the first team for the Test series.



R. Ashwin (second from left), who joined the team ahead of the Test series, poses with Mayank Agarwal and India's support staff at the Blue Springs Waterfront. - TWITTER

TEAMS

INDIA: Virat Kohli (captain), Mayank Agarwal. Prithvi Shaw, Cheteshwar Pujara, Ajinkya Rahane (vice-captain), Wriddhiman Saha (wicketkeeper), Hanuma Vihari, Ravindra Jadeja, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohammed Shami, Umesh Yadav, Ravichandran Ashwin, Rishabh Pant, Navdeep

Saini, Shubman Gill. NEW ZEALAND XI: Daryl Mitchell (captain), Finn Allen, Tom Bruce, Dane Cleaver, Henry Cooper, Scott Kuggeleijn, James Neesham, Rachin Ravindra, Tim Seifert, Ish Sodhi, Blair Tickner, Will Young. 13th men: Jake Gibson (Friday) and Scott Johnston (Saturday and Sunday).

LIVE on TV New Zealand XI vs India on STAR Sports 1, HD

FROM 3.30 AM

one in the squad a chance to have a decent hit between 50 to 100 balls and bowlers getting into the groove with a spell of



Indian team had a bonding session at the Blue Springs Waterfront near Hamilton on Thursday.



No fight for spot with Shaw: Gill

Hamilton, Feb. 13: Promising India batsman Shubman Gill insists he is not compet-ing with fellow young gun Prithvi Shaw for the opener's slot in the first Test against New Zealand but if he does get the opportunity, he will not "let it go waste". With a double hundred and a century against New Zealand 'A' here, Gill has made everyone take notice despite Shaw being firmly back in the mix for the upcoming two-match series start-

February 21. "Obviously, our careers started at the same time but there is no fight as such," Gill said on Thursday when asked about his take on his competition with the former India U-19 captain.

ing in Wellington from

Both Gill and Shaw are 20 and considered the stars of the future after a splendid runs in age-group cricket. "Both of us have done well in our positions. It's up to the team management, who they will play. It's not as if there is a fight. Whoever gets the chance will try to make the most of the opportunity and not let it go waste," the 20-year-old said ahead of the warm-up game against New Zealand XI.

Having played in New Zealand for the last six weeks as part of the A team, Gill feels that if New Zealand's short-ball factor can be nullified, it would go a long way in helping the team. "I think their bowling attack has been taking a lot of wickets with the short ball, especially Neil Wagner. If you see the last series they played against Australia, when nothing was happening in the wicket, they were really relying on the short ball. "Ås batsmen, if we could take that out of the picture and not give wickets to the short ball, it will be really helpful for us," he observed.

Wind (Breeze) factor is very important, especially when you are bai ting. The bowlers do a lot of planning depending on the breeze. It was not that easy to consistently pull and hook the ball (in windy conditions during the A series)."

Royal confusion in Bangalore side

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 13

The social media handle of the Royal Challengers Bangalore took the cricketing world by storm by removing their profile picture and posts from various social media platincluding forms, Facebook, Instagram and

Twitter on Thursday. The RCB skipper, Virat Kohli was himself taken aback and took to Twitter to express his surprise at the recent development. The 31-year-old tweeted, "Posts disappear and the captain isn't informed. @rcbtweets, let me know if you need any help." The social media han-

dles, including Twitter, Facebook and Instagram, of the RCB have also removed their display and cover pictures while name has the been changed to just 'Royal Challengers'. Their offi-cial handle —@royalchal-lengersbangalore — on the popular photo-shar-ing platform shows just

six posts. The recent developments have come into effect after the the Benglauru-based franchise signed Muthoot Fincorp as their title sponsor for IPL 2020. The Virat Kohli-led side on Tuesday, announced a three-year partnership with Muthoot Fincorp Ltd — a part of the Muthoot Pappachan Group — also known as Muthoot Blue.

As per their partnership agreement, there will be a 'jersey-front" logo placement, which will be prominent on the playing and training jersey, in-sta-

Fazal's ton helps Vidarbha go top

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 13

Resuming at 239/7, all Hyderabad could manage to add was just 33 runs as they were bowled out for 272 on Day Two of their elite Ranji Trophy Group match against Vidarbha being played at the Rajiv Gandhi Gandhi International Stadium in

Hyderabad on Thursday. In reply, Vidarbha skipovers (N. Jagdeesan 183, Jaydey er F. Y. Fazal led the run 107/3 in 41 overs (Avi Barot (batriot as he remained ting) 38. Arpit Vasavada (batting) unbeaten on 126. The southpaw managed to hit as many as 15 fours and three sixes. At stumps, the visitors

Posts disappear and the captain isn't

TALK

Virat Kohli

informed. @rcbtweets, let me know if you need any help.

> **Yuzvendra Chaha** @yuzi chaha

Arey @rcbtweets, what googly is this? Where did your profile pic and Instagram posts go?

Ab de Villiers @ABdeVilliers17

Folks at @rcbtweets, what's happened to our social media accounts? ?? I hope it's just a strategy break. ????"

dium integration at home matches, digital and other highly visible media platforms, a release had stat

ed. Earlier AB de Villiers and Yuzvendra Chahal too expressed their shock over the developments. "Arey @rcbtweets, what googly is this? Where did your profile pic and Instagram posts go?' Chahal tweeted on his way back from New

Zealand. "Folks at @rcbtweets, what's happened to our social media accounts? ?? I hope it's just a strategy break. ????" a baffled South African star de Villiers wrote.

BRIEF SCORES In Hyderabad: Hyderabad 272 ir 94.5 overs (Rahul Buddhi 52 Prateek Reddy 83, Yash Thaku

4/55, Raineesh Gurbani 3/48 Aditya Thakare 3/70) vs Vidarbha 242/4 in 75 overs (Faiz Fazal (batting) 126, Ganesh Satish 65, David Vidarbha Ravi Kiran 2/19). In Nadiad: Andhra 177 in 84.2 overs vs Gujarat 354-6 in 94 overs (Parthiv Patel 57, Axar Patel 89, Chirag Gandhi (batting) 80 Shoaib Md Khan 3/78). In Rajkot: Tamil Nadu 424 in 128.4

Clarke splits with wife on \$40m deal

Melbourne: Former Australia captain Michael Clarke and wife Kyly Boldy have split after more than seven years of marriage on a USD 40 million divorce settlement, according to media reports here. The couple has also agreed on arrangements to co-parent their four-year-old daughter Kelsey Lee. "After living apart for some time, we have made the difficult decision to separate as a couple, amicably," Clarke and Kyly were quoted as saying in a joint statement in the 'The Australian' newspaper. "With the greatest of respect for each other, we've come to the mutual conclusion that this is the best course for us to take while committed to the co-parenting of our daugh ter." The couple, both 38, married in 2012. Their daughter was born in 2015, months after he announced his retirement.an Instagram post, Clarke indicated he was preparing to become the new co-host of Big Sports Breakfast show this year alongside former rugby league great Laurie Daley. - PTI

State cycle polo trials on Sunday DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 13

The Telangana State Cycle Polo Association is organising a selection-cum-coaching camp for both boys and men at the Mini Stadium at Shamshabad on Saturdav Selected cyclists will represent the state at the 40th Junior Boys and 2nd Veteran National Cycle Polo championships to be held in Nagpur from February 28 to March 2 Interested players should contact the secretary on 9848734766 or 9394755939 for further details.

India's red-ball overseas warm-up games in the two. past few years have mostlv been two-day affairs with the home team batting on one day and visitors on the other day. Devoid of first-class status, the matches have been about giving every-

The hosting Boards also often put up a rag-tag out-fit which is a strategic move to deny visiting teams a chance to check out against quality bat-

ting or bowling line-up. - PTI

Saints simply couldn'

stop SCR's forward Vijay



Wriddhiman Saha (right) and Prithvi Shaw.

11, M. Siddharth 1/9, Sai Kishord 1/20. In Bengaluru: Baroda 85 & 208/5 in 67 overs (A. Pathan 90, Deepak Hooda 50, M. Prasidh Krishna 2/29) vs Karnataka 233 in 72.5 were 242/4, trailing the

-PTI75 overs

overs (Karun Nair 47, Abhimanyu hosts by just 30 runs, from Mithun 40, S Sopariya 5/83).

Tendulkar vs Lara in road safety match

Mumbai, Feb. 13: Two of the biggest names in world cricket Sachin endary Tendulkar and West Indian Brian Lara — will once again be up against each other for a noble cause.

The two champion players will clash against each other in the opening game of the Unacademy Road Safety World Series', a T20 tour nament, when India Legends will take on West Indies Legends at Wankhede Stadium here on March 7.

As per the series schedule released on Thursday, a total of 11 matches will be played in the tournament.

The series will feature some big names in cricket from India, Australia, Sri Lanka, West Indies and South Africa like Tendulkar, Virender Sehwag, Yuvraj Singh, Zaheer Khan, Brian Virender Lara, Chanderpaul, Brett Lee, Brad Hodge, Jonty Rhodes, Muttiah Tillakaratne Dilshan and Ajantha Mendis.

Two of these 11 matches will be played at Wankhede, four in Pune, and Navi Mumbai each The final game will be played at Brabourne Stadium here on March 22

SCR chug into Sam semifinals

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB. 13

Kumar, who forayed into South Central Railway the opponent's citadel at (SCR) subdued Saints 79will to score a whopping 41 in the quarter-finals of the third Samuel Vasanth 30 points. Santosh Mani, the tall Railway point guard, was also hard to Kumar memorial invitacontain, sinking a trio of tion flood-lit prize money basketball tournament at three pointers in his indi-YMCA Secunderabad on vidual contribution of 19. Thursday night. At half-Height and experience held Customs & GST in time, the winner led 42-25. The railway side showed good stead in the next last all the qualities of a eight encounter as it got champion squad, coached the better of Young Men's by former junior interna-Guild 92-84. That pivot Venkat Reddy had as many as four tip-ins tional K. Vishal Kumar. In the first quarter, it laid the foundation of a sound showed the proximity the defence, separating itself Customs men had to their by a slender margin at 17rival's backboard. THE RESULTS

13. But that was how close it allowed Saints to come. (all quarterfinals) SCR 79 (Vijav Kumar 30, Santosh Quarter II was about Mani 19, Kaushik 10) bt Saints 41 (Pratik Gona 11) HT: 42-25; Customs & GST 92 (M. Vijay Kumar 41, Venkat Reddy 15, M. Harish Chowdary 17) bt Young Men's Guild 84 (Prudhvishwar Deddy 24 Chris Venenb and Sai consolidation, as SCR logged 25 against Saints' 12. It pumped up the pace in the subsequent sesrecording 20 Reddy 24, Chris Veeresh and Sai Krishna 19) HT: 43-41; Eagles Club against its adversary's eight while in the last 10 63 (Aman 24, Venkat 14, Abhishek minutes it registered 18 13) bt Nizam Basketball Academy 44 (Majid 30) HT: 48-27. against Saints' 8

sions,

FIVE BASKETBALL OFFICIALS FROM STATE MAKE FIBA CUT

Hyderabad: P. Peter Santhosh Divakar and K. Prem Kumar Yadav from Telangana state have made it to the FIBA panel of referees, riding on top performances in the tests organised by the international basketball association. Mohd Nayeemuddin, S. Ashwin Kumar and Gavin Sohail Khan have also been selected as Table Officials for the next two years.

Jemimah is raring to go at World Cup

Sydney, Feb. 13: India top-order batswoman Jemimah Rodrigues is raring to go at the T20 World Cup starting here on February 21 and feels that the opening match against Australia will be one of the most important games of her career.

Matches between India and Australia have been keenly contested. The two teams are coming off the tri-nation T20 series final on Wednesday when Australia won by 11 runs. But, they both had one win each in their contests in the round robin stage

"Playing a World Cup... the first match in Australia and for me the first time playing (a World Cup) in Australia. Nothing is more exciting than India in Australia, so it will be a match we all will be keen to play and and just excited," Jemimah said in an International Cricket Council press release.

The two teams have some of the best batters in their line-ups. India's Smriti Mandhana and Harmanpreet Kaur have proven records against Australia, while Ellyse Perry, Meg Lanning and Alyssa Healy of the hosts have enjoyed excellent form in the past year especially. -PTI



Sunpreet Singh (IPS), Deputy Commissioner of Police (LB Nagar), Hyderabad, fires a shot to inaugurate the South Zone Big Bore shooting competitions at Aman Sanghi Shooting Range in Sanghi Nagar as Amit Sanghi (left), Telangana Rifle Association president and Gusti Noria (right), Telangana Rifle Association vice-president look on.

South Big Bore shoot on

DC CORRESPONDENT HYDERABAD, FEB.13

Over 150 shooters in 34 disciplines will compete at the 1st South Zone Big Bore shooting competitions that got underway at the certified Aman Sanghi 300m Big Bore Shooting Range, Sanghi Nagar, Ranga Reddy District on Sanghi Nagar, Thursday. The competition that was inaugurated by Sunpreet Singh (IPS). Deputy Commissioner of Police (LB Nagar), Hyderabad, will see shootfrom Telangana, ers

Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala compete.

This event will also serve as the qualifiers for the 63rd Shooting competitions in the Big Bore event.

Located 25 kilometres from Hyderabad, the Singh 300m Big Aman Bore Range is the first private certified shooting range in India. It is construct as per prescribed standards and guidelines of the National Rifle Association of India. The Range has 12 operational

lanes with CCTV cameras, pitt system and viewers gallery.

> National Rifle Association of India vice president and Telangana Rifle Association president Amit Sanghi informed that the South Zone competition is the qualifying round for the 63rd National Shooting Competitions in Big Bore Events, 2020. The South Zone event provides a perfect platform for the shooters to train as well as gain confidence, Sanghi said. Mr

-PTI

National



DECCAN CHRONICLE | HYDERABAD | FRIDAY | 14 FEBRUARY 2020

SHORT TAKES

Panghal is best

in 52kg category

New Delhi: World silver-medallist Amit Panghal (52kg) has been ranked number one by the IOC's Boxing Task Force ahead of next month's Olympic Qualifiers, making him the first Indian pugilist in over a decade to achieve the global top position in his category. In 2009, Olympic bronzemedallist Vijender Singh did it for the first time after he opened India's account at the world championships with a bronze in the 75kg division. The 24-year-old Panghal holds the numero uno position with 420 points. "It is a great feeling and obviously means a lot to me because it will help me in being seeded at the qualifiers. Being World No. 1 also gives you a renewed sense of confidence," Panghal said. "I hope to secure an Olympic spot in the first qualifier itself," added the diminutive boxer from Rohtak. - PT

Sandhu ousts **Fadte in quarters**

Chennai: The experienced Harinder Pal Sandhu quelled the vouthful exuberance of Yash Fadte, beating him in straight games on Thursday to storm into the semifinals of the men's singles in the 77th Senior National Squash Championship at the ISA courts here. Meanwhile, Delhi's Sanya Vats, a former junior star, ousted the seasoned and higher seeded Urwashi Joshi of Maharashtra in the women's singles. Sandhu, seeded in the 3-4 bracket, gave a lesson in stroke-play to the young Goan (seeded 5/8), winning 11-7, 11- 2, 11-7 to book a spot in the last four. The top seeds in the men's and women's sections respectively - Saurav Ghosal and Joshna Chinappa — had no trouble in advancing to the semifinals. - PTI

EB settle for draw against Punjab FC

Kalyani, West Bengal: Already out of the reckoning for a playoff berth, East Bengal settled for a 1-1 draw against Punjab FC in their I-League clash here on Thursday. Liberian forward Ansumana Kromah gave East Bengal a ninth minute lead with his powerful long range strike to give the home side a dominating start. However, they failed to hold on to their lead with attacking midfielder Girik Khosla producing a fine finish after being set up by Sergio Barboza in the 40th minute. East Bengal kept making inroads with a flurry of attacks in the second-half but Punjab FC defence managed to hold on to settle for one point from their away fixture. The easiest second-half chance for the redand-gold came in the 74th minute with Kromah in the frontline once again but it was Anwar Ali who managed to pull off a goal-line clearance. Second-placed Punjab now have 18 points from 12 matches, while East Bengal (12 points from 12 matches) managed to jump one spot to ninth place on goal difference with NEROCA.

Doubles trouble

India lose to Malaysia after doubles pairs flop

(Philippines), Feb. 13: Doubles special ist Satwiksairaj Rankir eddy's absence proved crucial as the Indian men's team suffered a 1-4 loss against a young Malaysian side in their second Group B match of the Badminton Asia Team Championships here on Thursday. With Satwik pulling out

the event due to an ankle sprain, India were forced to field two scratch pairs — M.R. Arjun and Chirag Shetty and Dhruv Kapila and Lakshya Sen, both of whom lost their respective

Kidambi Srikanth was the only shuttler to register a win as world no. 11 B Sai Praneeth and H.S. Prannoy too went down in other singles in the straight games at the Rizal Memorial Sports

Complex. After this loss, India finished second in the group and will now take on Thailand in the quarterfinals on Friday. India locked horns with

Malaysia and with Satwik missing, the onus was on Praneeth to give India a good start but the world championships bronze medallist lost 18-21, 15-21 to world no. 14 Lee Zii Jia. Chirag and Arjun then lasted just 31 minutes before going down 18-21, 15-21 to world no. 8 Malaysian combination of Aaron Chia and Soh Wooi Yik as India lagged 0-2. Former world no. 1 Srikanth then struggled past 23-year-old Cheam

first three ties.

17 pair of Ong Yew Sin and Teo Ee Yi, losing 14-21, 14-21 in 27 minutes as Malaysia took an unassailable 3-1 lead In the third singles, June Wei, a 2014 Youth Olympic Games gold medallist, 14-21, 21-16, 21-Prannoy was no match for Leong Jun Hao, a 2017 World Junior 19 to make it 1-2 after the Championships

medallist and a 2017 Asian However, makeshift pair Junior Champion, as he of Dhruv and Lakshya went down 10-21, 15-21 in 34 couldn't get past world no. minutes to hand

Malaysia a comfortable 4-1 victory. It will take a extraordinary effort from India to get across Thailand. Thailand boosts of quality players such as World No.12 Kantaphon Wangcharoen, three-time silver world junior champion Kunlavut Vitidsarn and 2018 Japan Open runnersup Khosit Phetpradab in

the singles.

- PTI

India's Kidambi Srikanth in action during his men's sin-

gles match against Cheam June Wei of Malaysia.

ASIA TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

With Doubles specialist Satwiksairaj Rankireddy pulling out the event due to an ankle sprain, India were forced to field two scratch pairs — M.R. Arjun and Chirag Shetty and the second team had Dhruv Kapila and Lakshya Sen, both of whom lost their respective ties.

Kidambi Srikanth was the only shuttler to register a win as world No.11 B. Sai Praneeth and H.S. Prannoy too lost. India finished second in their group and will take on Thailand in the quarterfinals.

Manpreet named Player of the Year **Becomes first Indian to win** international hockey honour

Lausanne, Feb. 13: National men's team captain Manpreet Singh on Thursday became the first Indian to win the International Hockey Federation's (FIH) Player of the Year award, capping a memorable 2019 season in which he led the side to Olympic qualification

The 27-year-old midfield-er, thus, became the first from the country to win the accolade since the awards were introduced in 1999.

He beat competition from Belgium's Arthur van Dorren and Lucas Villa of Argentina, who came second and third respectively. Manpreet polled a total of 35.2 per cent of combined votes, which includes National Associations, media, fans and players.

Van Dorren, on the other hand, got combined vote share of 19.7 per cent while Villa polled 16.5 per cent in his favour.

Manpreet, who had represented India at 2012 London and 2016 Rio Olympics, has enjoyed a long career in the national team since he made his debut in 2011. He now has 260 international appearances under his belt. Last year, Manpreet led India to victory in the

FIH Olympic Qualifiers, securing their Tokyo Olympics spot. Talking about the last season, Manpreet said: "If

you look at our year, we did well in every tournament we participated in. Be it the FIH Series Finals in June or the test series in Belgium where we played the hosts as well as Spain and beat them.

was to book our berth at the Olympics," India cap-- PTItain added.



HOCKEY IS NOT NATIONAL GAME SAYS RTI REPLY

Mumbai, Feb. 13: The Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has said that the Centre has not declared any sport as the 'national game' of the

country. The ministry said this in response to an RTI query filed by a school teacher from Dhule district of north Maharashtra.

There is a popular per-ception that hockey is the national sport of India. The RTI query had

sought to know when was hockey declared as India's national game. Mayuresh Agrawal, who teaches in V.K. Patil

International School in Sindkheda tehsil of Dhule district, has received the reply letter from the ministry dated January 15, 2020. He said he had filed the

query after his students asked when hockey was declared as the national

game of the country. "The government has not declared any sport/game as the National Game of the country, as the objective of the government is to encourage/promote all popular sports disci-plines," the reply from

-PTI

the ministry stated.

"Our biggest goal in 2019

CORONAVIRUS SCARE **United signing Ighalo** trains away from side

London, Feb. 13: Odion Ighalo, Manchester United's January signing from China, has been

problems re-entering the United Kingdom. Both *The Times* and *The Daily Mirror* reported Ighalo had been told

to stay away from the club's Carrington train-

ing centre — where hun-

dreds of staff work — as

he went through a 14-day

played a competitive match since December 6

The former Watford

has instead been put

— who has not

Taekwondo

quarantine period.

star





JAMSHEDPUR, **HYDERABAD IN A STALEMATE**

Hyderabad: An injury-time goal from Sumeet Passi helped Jamshedpur FC eke out a 1-1 draw against Hyderabad FC in an Indian Super League match at the GMC Balayogi Stadium here on Thursday. Nestor Gordillo's 39th-minute strike looked to be enough for the hosts to get only their second win of the season, but Passi's late equaliser put paid to the hopes of Hyderabad team With this draw, Hyderabad continue to be at the bottom of the league table after 17 games with seven points, while Jamshedpur are now seventh with 18 points. Hyderabad FC had the first chance of the game from a corner-kick in the fourth minute. Marcelinho's delivery was headed onto the post by Adil Khan before a panicked defence cleared the danger. Jamshedpur struggled to make an impact in the final third of the match.

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Nigerian international striker joined United on loan until the end of the season on January 31 transfer deadline day club from Chinese Shanghai Shenhua.

He is due to meet with Chelsea as they have his United team-mates been away at a training camp in Špain — Ighalo for the first time this weekend ahead of did not travel because of Monday's clash with fears he might have

Ruiz helps Napoli edge past Milan

Milan, Feb. 13: Fabian Ruiz scored the only goal as Napoli shocked Inter Milan 1-0 in their Italian Cup semifinal, first leg tie in the San Siro on Wednesday. The Spanish midfield-er broke through after

minutes to get Gennaro Gattuso's side back to winning ways after their 2-3 league defeat at home to lowly Lecce last weekend.

Ruiz picked up a Giovanni Di Lorenzo cross, beating three Inter defenders to curl in past a helpless Daniele Padelli.

"This is the real Napoli. Big compli-ments to my lads," said Gattuso, whose side are 11th in the Serie A table. But he warned: "There's no reason to smile, we still haven't

achieved anything yet." Antonio Conte's side looked sluggish days after their thrilling 4-2 derby win over AC Milan which put them top of the Sorije A table top of the Serie A table. Both sides had their chances in the first half

with Lautaro Martínez

nodding wide with



Odion Ighalo

BILBAO DEFEAT GRANADA IN

Conte sent on Cristian

Eriksen after 65 minutes

and the Dane threatened

but David Ospina held firm in the Napoli goal. Napoli, who last won

Olimpico in Rome on

. May 13.

Juventus.

-AFP

broke through after 57 minutes to help Napoli beat Inter Milan 1-0 in their Italian Cup semifinal game.

Padelli denying Piotr Zielinski just before the break in front of a crowd of nearly 60,000 in northern Italy.

the trophy in 2014, now take a slim advantage into the second leg at their Stadio San Paolo on March 5. "The derby certainly took away a lot of energy," said Conte.

"But we're talking about Napoli, who beat Lazio. Liverpool. "It's a team of substance despite its position in the standings. The final will take place in the Stadio

COPA FIRST LEG

Bilbao (Spain), Feb. 13: Captain Iker Muniain scored the only goal as Athletic Bilbao Bilbao defeated Granada 1-0 in the first leg of their Copa del Rey semifinal on Wednesday.

Muniain, 27, had been red-carded in his team's 2-1 defeat to Real Sociedad in La Liga at the weekend.

However, he was the toast of the city on Wednesday when he latched onto a cross from Inaki Williams just three minutes before the interval to score the game's only goal.

Athletic coach Gaizka Garitano named the team which same shocked Barcelona in the quarter-finals last week and they will consider themselves unfortunate not to have won by a greater margin on Wednesday after having two strikes ruled out for offside.

The second, scored off a fine volley in the 61st minute by Ander Capa, needed an intervention by VAR. -AFP



Ballantinés

STAY TRUE

GOLF RETREAT